

A look inside Edmonton's professional wrestling promotion, the Prairie Wrestling Alliance • page 15

PRIDE **WEEK** 

## LGBTQ Camp fYrefly garners \$500,000 donation



KATHLEEN ZENITH

#### **Katelyn Hoffart**

STAFF REPORTER - @KATELYNHOFFART

A U of A-based camp that aims to empower LGBTQ youths is buzzing to new heights with the announcement of an ambitious \$5 million campaign to take its program nation-wide.

Founded a decade ago by the university's Institute for Sexual Minority Studies and Services (ISMSS), Camp fYrefly formally announced the launch of their campaign at the Timms Centre for the Arts last Friday as part of the kickoff to the first campus Pride Week. The main focus of the camp is to develop leadership skills for LGBTQ youth to improve their own lives and reach out to others while making a difference in their schools and communities.

More than 100 people were in

attendance, including Minister of Culture Heather Klimchuk, city councillor Don Iveson, Edmonton-Strathcona MLA Rachel Notley and U of A president Indira Samarasekera, who made the announcement.

"It is the work (of ISMSS) that is making our society more just. Their research influences policy direction and decisions, and directly and powerfully supports families, schools and communities to positively address sexual orientation and gender identity issues," Samarasekera said.

"Their work helps change atti-

tudes." Doug Stollery was the next

individual to step up to the podium, and announced that the Stollery Charitable Foundation would be contributing \$500,000 towards the campaign. Along with many other individual donations, more than \$1 million has already been garnered towards support for Camp fYrefly's expansion goals.

Kristopher Wells, associate director for ISMSS, noted that the goals of the campaign are to not only take Camp fYrefly across Canada, but also to create stable operating funding for the future.

PLEASE SEE **FYREFLY •** PAGE 2

"D.Ropchan. The apoocalypse has only just begun. I dedicate my next song to you my friend <3" page 13

## **regateway**

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## Mussel adhesion unearths research gems

#### Mona Bai

NEWS WRITER - @BAIMENGYANG

The adhesive ability of mussels is yielding an abundance of possibilities for medical and engineering pursuits, now that research from the University of Alberta has unearthed the secret behind the sticking power.

Hongbo Zeng, an assistant professor of chemical and materials engineering, has dedicated his work to mussels ever since he was a PhD student at the University of California, Santa Barbara in 2007.

Now, the fruit of his research is taking root in multidisciplinary opportunities, including potential development of cancer fighting drugs, insight into the effect of nicotine on the brain and commercial uses for the mussels' adhesive ability.

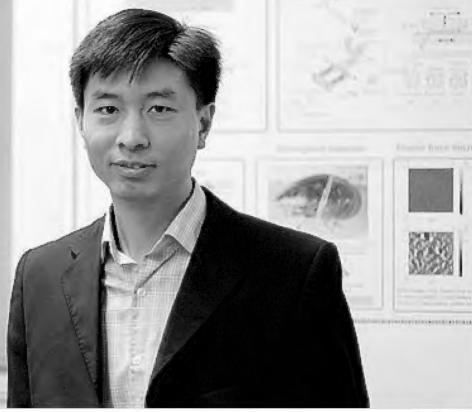
"This marine organism has a very unique, magic capability — a power to adhere to any surface underwater," Zeng said.

The uniqueness come from the fact that almost all human-produced adhesives fail or weaken underwater, losing their bonding ability. For Zeng, harnessing mussels' sticking capacity opens up great potential to develop adhesive materials for biomedical applications.

"Most of the current commercially available adhesives (are) either toxic or have some side effect," he explained.

"If we could, based on (the mussel's) totally bio-compatible adhesive, (create) totally biodegradable adhesives for the human body, I believe it would be a very significant finding."





FAHIM HASSAN

Aside from roping in its sticking power and developing what Zeng calls an "underwater superglue," Zeng and his research team are also trying to counter this power to provide a reprieve for fishermen and sailors who are beleaguered by the salt water critters.

"If you go to Vancouver (and) talk to some of the fishermen, or people who've had experience with boats, if they leave their boats in the sea water for a long time those mussels or marine organisms stick to the boat surface and cause corrosion," he explained.

"We want to design a very slippery surface so nothing will stick to it ... we hope to design some surface coatings so we can prevent the adhesion of the mussel."

This can also solve issues with clogged pipelines, where buildups of components such as aspartame stick to pipelines and eventually block oil flow, causing leaking or even

explosions from the pressure.

At this point, Zeng's team has collaborated with researchers in the United States to understand what factors are necessary for synthetic polymers to mimic mussel proteins and thus adhesive abilities.

Now, the potential for further development has drawn scientists ranging from biochemists to material engineers to explore the explosion of possibilities Zeng's research has unearthed.

"This is a long-term research program; this is not something we're going to finish in one or two years," he said. "It takes some time to understand and then develop the materials, and then apply the materials to the different areas of application."

Zeng's research on the adhering mechanism of mussels was published in the Angewandte Chemi Journal on Feb. 28.

## streeters

COMPILED AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY Andrea Ross + Dan McKechnie



Dawn Hodder SCIENCE II

"A Camaro, because it's yellow and from Transformers. I'd be a cool Pope."

"A topless Honda
Civic, because it's a
good quality and economical brand."

As you may have heard, the new Pope Francis I greeted the crowd at his inauguration in an open-top Mercedes Benz G-Wagon.

WE ASKED...

## If you were the Pope, what would be your ideal "Pope-mobile?"

"I would have a less flashy car. A horse and buggy? Actually, no — that's like saying religion is for the Middle Ages, or something. Just not the flashiest car. A Toyota Corolla; it shows that materialism is not what it's all about."



Chelsey Whitrow ARTS IV

"I want to say I would just drive a regular vehicle, but it would be cool to ride in on a double bike. A tandem bike. That'd be cool."



GALLERY, 10230 JASPER AVENUE | DRINKS TO FOLLOW AT THE UNDERGROUND, 10004 JASPER AVENUE

## LGBTQ community celebrates first official U of A pride parade

**Billy-Ray Belcourt** 

NEWS STAFF ■ @BILLYRAYB

Students and staff added some colour and flair to campus Monday afternoon during the University of Alberta's inaugural pride parade.

Nearly 75 people braved the cold temperatures and deep snow, gathering at SUB to embark on a parade route through Quad, the Education buildings and SAB to show off their pride and excitement for the week's celebrations.

The parade was only one of many events in the first U of A-endorsed Pride Week. The Institute for Sexual Minority Studies and Services (ISMSS) and OUTreach — a services centre for LGBTQ students on campus — were the primary organizers of the festivities.

Alexis Hillyard, education programmer for ISMSS and Pride Week event coordinator, said she's thrilled to have the opportunity to increase LGBTQ acceptance on campus, and hopes the parade will instill a stronger sense of inclusivity and awareness for LGBTQ people and services.

"We wanted the parade to be nice and big and visible, to show the students and staff that there are supports here — there are people that support you, and we're coming together to show this sense of support," she said.

As LGBTQ students and staff become more involved in the U of A, Hillyard hopes this event, along with increased awareness, will mold a more colorful campus community.

"I think (the parade will bring) a renewed sense of community and support on campus — so just seeing everyone in one place together (and) walking together — it's almost like



standing in solidarity with each other, with LGBTQ people and allies coming together," she explained.

"I think it will enhance and increase the inclusivity and acceptance that we already have on campus ... (and) will strengthen and solidify what we already have going on."

Nicole Beal, assistant to the Dean of St. Stephen's College and parade attendee, said she felt honoured to be part of an event aimed at creating a safer community and encouraging general awareness of campus diversity.

Beal said events like the pride parade acquaint students with a caring and open-minded university environment.

"Universities are supposed to be inclusive — we want to learn about other people's cultures (and) other people's ideas of humanity," she

"As university students going into society, I think that it's important for everyone to understand that

we're an inclusive community here at the U of A and that we recognize everyone as human beings first and foremost. It's not about gender, race, creed (or) sexual orientation. It's about us being a community and a whole person together."

Both Beal and Hillyard are optimistic Pride Week will become a U of A tradition, since it has brought so many student groups, services and faculties together to show off the university's unique mosaic of diversity.

"I hope (Pride Week) becomes an annual event, and I think that it will (be). Because it was so big this first time, and so many people are excited by it and wanting to be involved and wanting to support, that it's going to start to carry itself from year to year and it (will) become part of the institutional fabric of our campuses," Hillyard said.

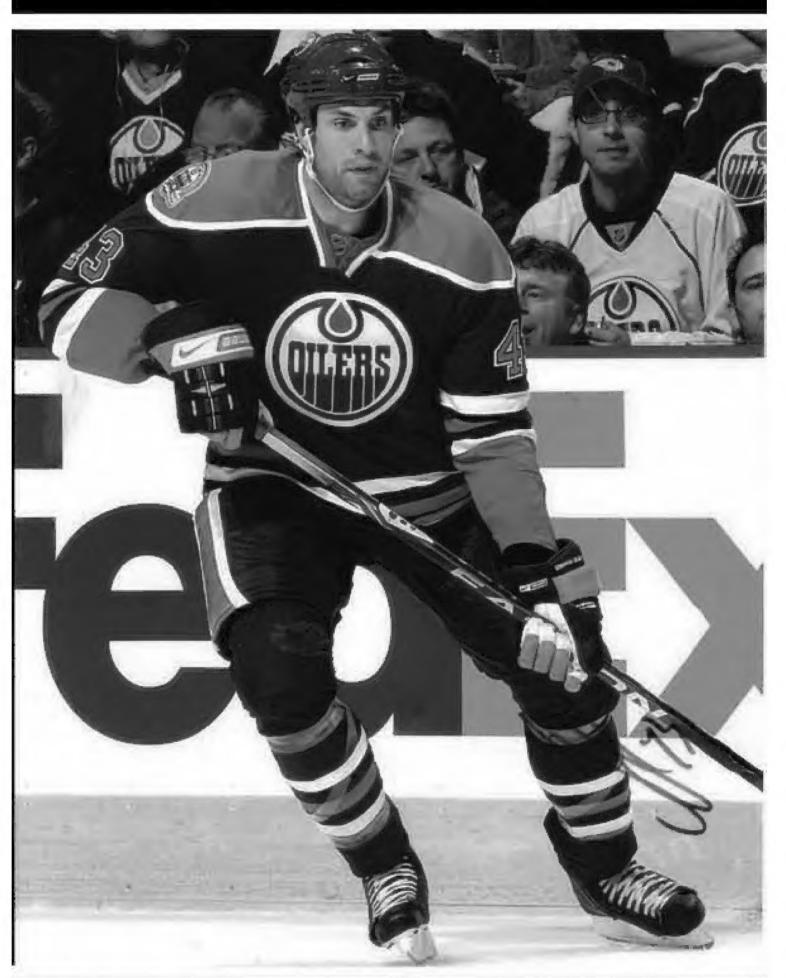
For further information on upcoming Pride Week events visit prideweek.ualberta.ca



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## Liberal leader combats mental health stigma

Megan Hymanyk

NEWS STAFF

Last week's Mental Health Awareness Week brought Alberta Liberal Party leader Raj Sherman to the Katz Centre on campus to shed light on a relatively unknown part of his past: his struggle with mental health.

From March 11-15, U of A medicine students brought various speakers to campus to discuss specific mental health issues, raising awareness and informing students about dealing with mental health problems.

Some of the topics included schizophrenia, eating disorders and the stigma surrounding mental health.

Sherman, who presented a segment titled Healing and the Healer, fit the bill for the event as both a Faculty of Medicine graduate and an individual who once suffered personally from mental health problems.

Using his medical career as a backdrop, Sherman spoke to a crowd comprised primarily of medical students about the stigma surrounding mental health and dealing with the high levels of stress and anxiety that accompanies medical professions.

"Mental health is a huge issue. One out of five (people) say they (suffer from mental health issues), but I think it's more one out of one. Everybody has gone through mental health issues," he said.

One of Sherman's central points

of focus was the mentality forced upon students entering medical school: they're taught that doctors are shrouded in a cloak of narcissistic importance, and encouraged to manipulate the world to their liking.

"It's a stigma, if you can't handle the stress, that you're weak. It actually takes strength and character to acknowledge you have a problem."

RAJ SHERMAN LEADER, ALBERTA LIBERAL PARTY

"We are made to feel so important that the sun is not going to rise unless we make it rise," he said.

Sherman was open about his early medical career, and discussed how both his stress levels as a practicing physician and his difficulty transitioning from day to night shifts resulted in a 10-month leave of absence — leading him to a discussion about the judgment around taking time off work in any field.

"It's a stigma, if you can't handle the stress, that you're weak. It actually takes strength and character to acknowledge you have a problem. Learn to say no and recognize your limits," he said.

Event organizers Ori Scott and Sarah Riedlinger, both medical

students themselves, emphasized the importance of Mental Health Awareness Week and noted the event had shifted its focus this year.

"In the past, it was more focused on diagnosing other people — so we would have a bunch of lectures on 'This is how you diagnose schizophrenia' or 'This is how you diagnose bipolar'" Scott said.

"Since we got into medicine, I think we realized that there are a lot of people within the medical realm who have a mental health issue. So we realized that we need to talk about mental illness as something we have, not something other people have."

Scott and Riedlinger also confronted the societal reaction mental health issues draw, which is different from the reaction stemming from physical health problems.

"People are so ashamed because they think they're broken or defective, so they don't want to tell anyone because people still don't see it as real or legitimate as a physical illness," Scott said.

Riedlinger added that medical uncertainty surrounding mental illnesses creates a challenge when an individual attempts to recognize whether or not they have a problem.

"Lots of the time, we don't know the reasons why (people have mental health issues), but at least if we talk about it and we recognize it's an actual illness and that it's a problem, then hopefully we begin to reduce the stereotype," she said. Whyte - 8217-104 Street
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registration is required ualberta.ca/alumni/represent





centre for student development

## Environmental responsibility in hands of Albertans, Strombo says

**Jennifer Polack** 

NEWS STAFF ■ @JENPOLACK

Bringing an end to Grant MacEwan University's Sustainability Week, the university's Student's Association (SAMU) closed their sustainability speaker series with the grand finale: George Stroumboulopoulos.

Stroumboulopoulos is most well-known as the host of CBC's George Stroumboulopoulos Tonight, and the television personality is also a strong advocate for human rights and sustainability initiatives such as Make Poverty History, One Million Acts of Green and HipHop4Africa.

In an interview, Stroumboulopoulos stressed the importance of encouraging individuals to make environmentally-conscious decisions in both their everyday lives and on the voting ballot.

"If you don't engage, what do you think — that the rest of the people are going to stand up for you and it's going to be their responsibility? Accountability is fucking key," he said.

Personal accountability was a common thread throughout his talk, which focused on how power is ultimately in the hands of the people.

"(Who's) in power? Robots? No — people," he said.

"They shake your hand when they come to the door. You elect them — it's the way our system works, like it or not. You elect your local representative, they go to Ottawa and they're your voice."

While Stroumboulopoulos didn't openly address the oil sands or the Keystone XL pipeline, he acknowledged the increasing difficulty in creating an environmentally conscious Canada.

"We are now a country that stands in the way of environmental progress," he told the audience.

"I do like the fact that people are fighting for their neighbourhoods and fighting for their land. People are standing up, and they convinced the President (Obama) not to (support the pipeline). That's people power."

"People power" in the form of protesting is a right Stroumboulopoulos believes Canadians don't use often enough, especially in regards to issues regarding sustainability.



JENNIFER POLACK

"In our culture, we only have three options: how we vote, how we spend our money and how we protest," he said.

"Protest is very complicated right now in Canada. That's a universal truth. You could have an armed uprising, but that's not what we do. We only riot here over hockey and the G20."

"If you don't engage, what do you think — that the rest of the people are going to stand up for you and it's going to be their responsibility? Accountability is fucking key."

GEORGE STROUMBOULOPOULOS
SPEAKER, GRANT MACEWAN SUSTAINABILITY SERIES

While expressing support for protests over the new Alberta budget, Stroumboulopoulos stressed how

voting Albertans need to be held accountable for the fact that the government that made the current budget was elected by the people.

"In any democracy, you are responsible for the government you elect — especially if you know what your government stands for," he said.

"Albertans elect the same party all the time, so this must be what Albertans want ... Albertans have made a clear message to themselves and to the rest of the country who they want to represent them and what kind of budgets they want."

While not expressing an optimistic outlook for the future of sustainability in Canada, Stroumboulopoulos pointed out the crucial role youths play in changing the country's bleak sustainability landscape into something the next generation will be proud to inherit — part of his belief that people need to be more responsible.

"There are no surprises here. You know what you're getting, so ask the people. They are the ones responsible."

#### news briefs

COMPILED BY April Hudson

#### South Campus Open House

Last Thursday's public information open house for South Campus development gave community members one final chance to offer input on the U of A's Long Range Development Plan (LRDP) 2013.

Aside from presentations and a question and answer session, the open house also presented attendants with a breakdown of all the consultation that has happened since 2002, blueprints for discussion purposes regarding possible development on South Campus and future steps in LRDP amendments.

Part of Thursday's numerous presentations included an outline of perspective and concerns from the South Campus Neighbourhood Coalition (SCNC), a group that filed a lawsuit against the U of A in December 2011 after the U of A proposed building a radioisotope facility following what the SCNC

considered to be a lack of adequate consultation.

Current concerns from the SCNC include the external effects of land development outside South Campus, arguing the current decision-making process does not sufficiently address these effects.

"A new community is being built, our communities are being transformed; we need (an) appropriate decision process that can work across the City and the University 'boundaries' to look at the landscape as a 'whole' in planning these developments," the presentation stated.

This was followed by a comprehensive look at the proposed 2013 LRDP, which include a reduction in parking space and incorporation of an integrated constructed wetland and bioswale system for stormwater management.

The university further outlined three groups of priorities, some of which are already in the 2012 LRDP, including a 63 Avenue intersection and planned student housing, which doesn't currently have secured funding.

An update from the SCNC acknowledged that the residents of South Campus neighbourhoods understood South Campus will undergo development.

Campus, arguing the current decision-making process does not sufficiently address these effects.

"A new community is being built, our communities are being transformed; we need (an) appropriate decision process that can work

It also acknowledged the shaky past relationship it has had with the U of A — primarily the lawsuit, which resulted in a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) being drawn up between the two parties during the summer of 2012.

"The MoU was developed to create a process where communities could provide meaningful input early in the planning process and not only when the University had already decided on substantial aspects of land use and developments," the update read.

"The SCNC and the University have made significant progress on the consultation protocols and processes but further work in some areas remain."

Although this marked the last public information open house the university will be holding in regards to the LRDP 2013, public input is still being received via email or mail until April 4.

## Five hundred protestors march on Legislature

Post-secondary coalition garners massive support from students, staff and citizens in rally against recent provincial budget cuts

#### Michelle Mark

ONLINE REPORTER • @MICHELLEAMARK

Upwards of 500 protestors marched from the University of Alberta campus to the Legislature Friday afternoon, rallying in support of the newly-formed Coalition for Action on Post-Secondary Education.

The protest was in response to the Alberta government's March 7 announcement that post-secondary institutions will receive a 6.8 per cent cut to the Campus Alberta grant in place of last year's promised two per cent increase.

Event organizer and Board of Governors Representative Brent Kelly said the budget cut is the final straw in a long line of government missteps regarding post-secondary education, and that it was high time students threw their voices into the mix.

"We've been accepting all sorts of different kinds of cuts for decades now — we're tired of it. Cuts to post-secondary education are cuts to our future."

BRENT KELLY BOARD OF GOVERNORS REPRESENTATIVE, STUDENTS' UNION

"We need to be spreading the message that we're not going to accept cuts to post-secondary education here in Alberta," he said.
"We've been accepting all sorts of



READY FOR BATTLE Albertans rallied on the steps of the Legislature Building last Thursday in protest against education cuts. KEVIN SCHENKE

different kinds of cuts for decades now — we're tired of it. Cuts to post-secondary education are cuts to our future."

Kelly and a medley of students, faculty, staff and concerned citizens took to social media almost immediately following the budget announcement, quickly creating a Facebook event to organize the rally, which garnered nearly 1,000 confirmed attendees.

The protest itself kicked off with an assembly in a Tory lecture theatre, where attendees split off into breakout sessions to discuss smaller issues such as cross-university action, coalition structuring and community outreach, before reconvening to present their findings to the assembly as a whole.

Students' Union President Colten Yamagishi gave speeches at both the Tory assembly and the Legislature, where he said he was inspired by the collective action from the various post-secondary education stakeholders and hoped a lasting momentum could be achieved.

"The big change is going to happen from some meetings that we (will) have about having these people keep moving forward, sending letters and being proactive about our approach," he said.

"I think we can prove there's a

good reason for investing in postsecondary, and that's what this group is here to do today."

Former U of A student Adi Rao, who graduated last year, participated in both the assembly and the march, and said he joined the event not only to protest cuts but to advocate for a progressive tax system. Rao said ultimately, Alberta's economic problems boil down to the province's tax jurisdiction.

"I think we have an (example) of this government's chronic mismanagement of our public funds," he said.

"This entire time they've been talking about there being a spending problem ... but can they not see that there's a revenue problem?

"This has been a grassroots effort so far ... and I don't think this is going to stop until we get what we want, which is a serious look at investment in post-secondary education," he added.

Pleased with the successful turnout despite Friday's chilly weather, Kelly said the march will not be the end of the movement. Another event is already scheduled for March 21 when the Legislature will actually be in session.

"We're trying to branch out and expand the scope, because at the end of the day not just post-secondary education are facing these cuts. It's high school students, it's teachers, it's doctors too. It's of concern to all Albertans," he said.

"This isn't just one rally and we're done — this is just the beginning. We want to sustain the momentum from here."



WWW.SQUIRESPUB.CA | 10505 82 (WHYTE) AVENUE | DOORS AT 5PM



## General Faculties Council / Board of Governors Forum

BY April Hudson + Michelle Mark

#### PRESIDENT GIVES UPDATE ON U OF A BUDGET SITUATION

The University of Alberta's final General Faculties Council (GFC) meeting of the Winter semester began last Thursday with the much-discussed Alberta Budget 2013, which brought heavy news of a 7.2 per cent cut to the U of A's operating grant.

President Indira Samarasekera opened with a reiteration of the shock she felt when the budget was released, explaining to GFC that the government deliberately decided not to tell post-secondary institutions what was coming. She also noted she had not been able to speak with Deputy Premier and Minister of Enterprise and Advanced Education Thomas Lukaszuk since the initial announcement on March 7.

Although the U of A has been given an extension on presenting its Comprehensive Institutional Plan (CIP) to the government until May 31, Samarasekera said only the budget chapter would be rewritten, with the rest of the CIP remaining the same.

As expected, when the president opened up the discussion for questions from the floor, students were quick to inquire about the possibilities of tuition increases and mandatory non-instructional fees (MNIFs).

"Everything is open," Samarasekera said. U of A Vice-President (Finance and Administration) Phyllis Clark added the Mandatory Non-Instructional Fee Budget Advisory Committee (MBAC) met the day before and had not discussed any new proposals for MNIF increases.

Addressing curiosity about government-issued mandate letters post-secondary institutions will be receiving, Samarasekera said they are no longer being called "mandate letters," but now are "letters of expectation" geared towards increased collaboration between the province's 26 post-secondary institutions.

Students' Union Board of Governors Representative Brent Kelly asked Samarasekera whether she would be attending the Coalition for Action on Post-Secondary Education (CAPSE) protest at the Legislature that Thursday.

"I've said what I'm going to say, and I don't think the government work from protocolors necessarily pleased (with classes. However that)," Samarasekera responded, a vote, the motion adding now is the time for her to keep a cool head.

#### STUDENTS TO RECEIVE MORE FEEDBACK FROM PROFESSORS

GFC moved into a discussion regarding the need for instructors to provide substantive course feedback to students before the withdrawal deadline passes.

Bill Connor, Vice-Provost (Academic Programs and Instruction), was one of three presenters on the subject. He said during discussion with SUVice-President (Academic)

Dustin Chelen, he realized many students did not know where they stood in their classes by the withdrawal deadline.

When he realized there was nothing in the university calendar addressing this, Connor said he became convinced change was needed.

Discussion centred around

#### "I've said what I'm going to say, and I don't think the government was necessarily pleased (with that)."

INDIRA SAMARASEKERA
PRESIDENT, UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

the use of the word "substantive," which some GFC members thought would require too much work from professors with large classes. However, when called to a vote, the motion passed with 52 votes in favour.

#### SU FALL READING WEEK PROPOSAL DIVIDES GFC MEMBERS

The Students' Union's longdebated Fall Reading Week proposal came before GFC for the first time, presented by current SU president Colten Yamagishi and former SU president Rory Tighe.

Although GFC student representatives and student guests spoke strongly in favour of the proposal, it was met with criticism by some graduate students and deans.

AllenBerger, dean of Augustana, said the deans don't see the connection between the proposal and the problem of mental health, which the proposal is meant to address in part.

One primary issue Berger brought up was the proposal's placement of a Fall Reading Week in November, instead of October.

One GFC graduate student representative said the Fall Reading Week needs to be implemented on an evidence basis, which does not currently exist, while another argued that after three years of consultation, this is the proposal students want.

Dean of Students Frank Robinson also took contention with the current proposal, worrying about the isolating effect a week without classes may have on international students.

Discussion closed with Samarasekera acknowledging it is time for the university and the SU to reach a compromise on the proposal.

## GOVERNMENT'S BUDGET DECISION BASED ON MISINFORMATION, BOARD OF GOVERNORS HEARS

The following morning, university members gathered for a Board of Governors meeting, which got off to a solemn start with a report from Samarasekera.

The budget issue was again brought up, with Samarasekera reiterating that the U of A had been given no advance warning from the government that the cuts would be so deep.

According to Samarasekera, the provincial government had based much of the budget cuts on the fact that the U of A receives the highest per student funding

in Canada, and can therefore withstand the decreases.

However, Samarasekera countered that as one of the world's top universities, the U of A can't be easily compared to other Canadian institutions, and noted student contribution at the U of A is significantly lower than other post-secondary institutions.

Althoughsheclarifiedshewasn't trying to justify tuition increases, Samarasekera also questioned whether the U of A's tuition levels are appropriate in comparison to its peers.

#### NO GUARANTEE AGAINST MARKET MODI-FIER INCREASES, STUDENTS' UNION HEARS

During the question period, Yamagishi posed a question about the possibility of potential market modifier increases, expressing how such increases would go directly against the government's recent promise to avoid balancing the budget on the backs of students.

Samarasekera gave no indication market modifiers have been considered thus far, but emphasized if the operating grant decreases while students' fees stay the same, the university's quality must therefore decrease.

The current draft of the 2013-14 Comprehensive Institutional Plan was scheduled to be voted on during the meeting, but was withdrawn due to the previous week's budget announcement.

Samarasekera declared the entire budget chapter of the CIP invalid, and said multiple amendments will be made and a prequel added, although a large component of the draft will remain the same.





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CO-ED COOPERATION Amanda Jones, middle, has been building a program in Uganda addressing sexual health issues of youths. SUPPLIED

## U of A program brings sex ed to young women in Uganda

#### **Katelyn Hoffart**

STAFF REPORTER - @KATELYNHOFFART

International Women's Day may only be one day out of the year, but one student-founded program from the University of Alberta is reaching out all 365 days to provide young Ugandan women with resources and knowledge to address sexual health issues.

Peer Education Kabarole was founded under the U of A's School of Public Health in 2008 by Amanda Jones, who was working on her Master of Science thesis at the time, alongside her supervisor Lory Laing, the current interim dean of the School of Public Health.

The program works with local health officials in Uganda to go into schools and educate youths on safe sexuality, healthy relationships, HIV and AIDS, as well as birth control and pregnancy. It also trains youths to be peer leaders within their schools to discuss these matters.

"There's still a lot of stigma attached to sex in general; it's really common. It's a culture where sex is part of life, but people don't like to

talk about it," said Janis Geary, a program member and a PhD student in the School of Public Health.

"The real strength of the peer education program was building those trusted relationships where students know they can trust each other to talk to each other."

Educating others isn't just limited to talks and discussions. Creative ways of engaging others in the conversation also takes place in the form of skits and a radio show. One-on-one counselling is another service that is part of creating a safe and comfortable environment for students to ask questions.

Co-ed learning is a key element of the program, fostering cooperation and positive interaction between males and females. Ensuring gender balance in the number of peer leaders and executives is important to the way things are run.

One of the biggest concerns for Ugandan women is being pressured into a sexual relationship in order to make ends meet, according to Geary.

"One thing that's interesting with sexual relationships amongst youths there is that it's not transactional, but there's a lot of gift-giving

and it's seen as a normal function within a relationship," she said.

She added this causes a lot of pressure for girls to have sex with older men in order to pay for school fees or basic necessities such as food.

"So we have sex, you give me a gift (and) it means that we're in a relationship now — and there's a lot of exchange of goods," she said.

"When people are really poor, that exchange of goods becomes an extremely important way for them to get anything."

Originally, the project began as an executive team working in two Ugandan schools.

The response they received back from students was incredibly positive, leading to the project's continuation and expansion to 15 secondary schools.

"The students really are the main drivers of this program. They've been the ones to develop the curriculum based on information that they feel is relevant to them (while) working with educators," Geary said.

"Kids are really motivated to be involved, and they feel it's benefitting their school."

## gateway Mews presents

# ANCIENT GATEWAY ARTICLE OF THE WEEK



### Awareness week explores illusion of free will

#### **Teddy Carter**

NEWS STAFF

University of Pennsylvania professor emeritus Anthony Cashmore was met with skepticism last Thursday when he presented his lecture, Is Free Will an Illusion?, at the University of Alberta's Centennial Centre for Interdisciplinary Science.

Extra seating was needed for the crowd of students, staff and public who poured in to see Cashmore speak on the long-debated topic of the existence of free will.

The lecture was co-hosted by the Centre for Neuroscience and the Departments of Philosophy and Religious Studies as a part of Brain Awareness Week 2013.

Once the lecture was underway, there was no mistaking Cashmore's opinion.

"We're going to conclude that probably there is no such thing as free will," he stated.

"Those of you who have met me in the last few hours and the last day will know ... that probably would be a gross understatement in reference to what my thinking is on this topic."

Cashmore explained the scientific basis for his conclusion, which includes evidence such as the

experiments of scientist Benjamin Libet, which demonstrate that the unconscious brain normally makes decisions before the conscious mind becomes aware of those decisions.

"I've given this lecture many times, and I always end with the somewhat arrogant but somewhat facetious comment that what I've told you, there is no way I can be wrong," he said.

#### "We're going to conclude that probably there is no such thing as free will."

ANTHONY CASHMORE SPEAKER, BRAIN AWARENESS WEEK

The floor was opened to questions from the audience, the majority of whom seemed skeptical about Cashmore's conclusions. Attendee Kian Parseyan, a research assistant in the Department of Neuroscience, said the lecture left him feeling uncertain about the topic.

"I think what we've heard is a bit simplistic. Of what I've learned through my education, what I've read ... I've come to the realization that free will needs a definition,"

he said.

"I don't feel that (Cashmore) has defined it well enough to be discussing it in a black-and-white manner like he is. But the way I define it (is) the conscious perception of our actions before we choose to carry out that behaviour."

However, Parseyan said he believes talks like this are important anyway.

"This society needs to start realizing our perception of free will, start breaking it down, start realizing its boundaries, its limits, so that we can change our policies and adapt then in a way that is relevant," he explained.

Chelsea Fett, an undergraduate biological sciences student, said Cashmore's argument made sense, but still left some questions unanswered

"The question I come out (of this) with is, if we don't (make decisions), and the neurons do, where did they get the decision to fire and stuff like that?" she said.

"I feel like there's a bit of fate that determines what we're going to do, but in regards to everyday activities, I do feel like we still have some free will in those choices."

Brain Awareness Week ran March 11-15.

"Constitutionpated profs look for relief."



NEWS MEETINGS FRIDAYS AT 3 PM IN 3-04 SUB

online at THEGATEWAYONLINE.CA/NEWS

## LGBTQ campaign to promote acceptance

FYREFLY • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Another priority is to amp up research, along with recruiting a host of graduate and post-doctoral students from across the nation and worldwide to lead the way in generating social change.

"I'd love to get to a point in our world where no one would ever have to 'come out' anymore, because it wouldn't matter; there would be support every day for who you are and how you identify," Wells said.

"We stand for important values, integrity, valuing excellence, valuing frontier thinking, being ahead of the pack. Not doing what society's currently doing, but what (it) should be doing."

INDIRA SAMARASEKERA PRESIDENT, UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

"But we're not there yet, and that's why this campaign is so important. This is not just a campaign to raise \$5 million; it's a campaign to help fundamentally change our society."

During the unveiling of the campaign, former Camp fYrefly attendee and long-time volunteer youth leader — or rather AlumFly, as Wells called it — Evan Westfal attested to the lifechanging support he received as a teen by attending the camp.

"For the first time in my life, I was surrounded by people who understood me. Now, to a gay 16-year-old, camaraderie and understanding are hard to come by," Westfal said.

"My most satisfying experience at camp was seeing youths returning over the years with growing confidence. It was as though I was watching the evolution of queer humanity, and I loved it," he added.

Edmonton mayor Stephen Mandel wrapped up the event with a recognition of the U of A's Pride Week, and said he was ecstatic to have been involved with the campaign process.

"This is a great day for the City of Edmonton, an even more important day for the University of Alberta and a much better day for those who are impacted by prejudice and misunderstanding," Mandel said.

"This will be the change of that."

After the event, Samarasekera said she hopes in coming years more people will rally around the notion of Pride Week and understand homophobic comments are unacceptable.

"People here should reach out to young people who are gays and lesbians in the school system, and grow our ability to support them, so they feel welcome and the stigma associated with it disappears," she said.

"We stand for important values, integrity, valuing excellence, valuing frontier thinking, being ahead of the pack. Not doing what society's currently doing, but what (it) should be doing. We see this as a chance to lead."

## events listings

#### **University of Alberta Data Summit**

March 19 - 20 University of Alberta

#### **Grad Fair**

March 19, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. University of Alberta

#### Alberta Budget 2013 — Post-Mortem

March 21, 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. Tory Lecture Theatres B-1

#### Pride Week Queer Art Night

March 21, 7 p.m. Dewey's

#### **smARTs**

March 21, 6 - 9 p.m. Myer Horowitz Theatre, SUB

#### **Pride Week OUTreach Drag Show**

March 22, 7 - 10 p.m. Pawn Shop on Whyte

#### **Students on Budget: SU Town Hall**

March 26, 12 - 2 p.m. SUBstage

## STUDENTS' UNION EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

APPLICATION DEADLINE Tuesday, April 2, 2013

DETAILED JOB DESCRIPTIONS are available at www.su.ualberta.ca/jobs

NOTE: The Ombudservice Director application deadline has been extended to

NOTE: The Ombudservice Director application deadline has been extended to April 2, 2013. Full job description available online.

#### IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS

- Please submit cover letter, resume and 3 references (name & phone #) by email.
- We thank everyone who applies; however, ONLY shortlisted applicants will be notified.
- Applicants must be undergraduate students and have paid full Students' Union fees.

#### INFOLINK Communications Coordinator

TERM: May 1, 2013-April 30, 2014

HOURS: May 1, 2013-Aug. 31, 2013 35 h/week

Sept. 1, 2013-April 30, 2014 25 h/week

REMUNERATION: May 1, 2013-Aug. 31, 2013 \$1896/month

Sept. 1, 2013-April 30, 2014 \$1354/month

Submit application to hallie.brodie@su.ualberta.ca

Duties performed by InfoLink's Communications Coordinator may include: the administration of the SU Tutors training program, the upkeep of InfoLink's information resources and online listings, the supervision and training of hourly staff, and the general promotion of InfoLink. The Communications Coordinator will also work on any special projects that have been assigned by the manager.

#### INFOLINK HUB Operations Coordinator (2)

TERM: May 1, 2013-April 30, 2014 (1)
August 1, 2013-April 30, 2014 (1)
HOURS: May 1, 2013-Aug. 31, 2013 35 h/week
Sept. 1, 2013-April 30, 2014 25 h/week

Submit application to hallie.brodie@su.ualberta.ca

REMUNERATION: May 1, 2013-Aug. 31, 2013 \$1896/month Sept. 1, 2013-April 30, 2014 \$1354/month

The HUB Operations Coordinators will be responsible for providing the University's students, staff, alumni, and visitors with information and guidance on matters related to academics, campus activities, ONEcard services, and general campus information. The Operations Coordinators will also assist with the development of internal resources and social

Team, the Operations Coordinators will also assist with staff supervision and training.

media management. As a member of InfoLink's Administrative

#### STUDENT GROUP SERVICES Coordinators (2)

TERM: May 1, 2013 - April 30, 2014

HOURS: May 1, 2013 - Aug. 31, 2013 35 h/week

Sept. 1, 2013 - April 30, 2014 25 h/week

REMUNERATION: May 1, 2013 - Aug. 31, 2013 \$1896/month

Sept. 1, 2013 - April 30, 2014 \$1354/month

Submit application to kelin.flanagan@su.ualberta.ca

The Student Group Services Coordinators are responsible to the Student Group Services Manager and assist in promoting cooperation and coordination among Student Groups. This individual will also aid in the daily administrative operations of the Student Group Services office including, but not limited to, student group registration, social media and communications management, and event planning for Clubs Fair and professional development programs.

#### SAFEWALK Associate Director

TERM: July 1, 2013 - April 30, 2014

HOURS: 20 hours/week

REMUNERATION: \$946/month

Submit application to johanna.comartin@su.ualberta.ca

The AD is responsible for the technical component of the service, upkeep and maintenance of equipment, providing supplemental training for dispatch volunteers and other duties as outlined in the employment contract and by the Director of Safewalk.

#### SUSTAIN SU Associate Director (2)

TERM: July 1, 2013 – April 30, 2014

HOURS: July 1, 2013 – April 30, 2014 15 h/week

REMUNERATION: July - April \$709/month

Submit application to johanna.comartin@su.ualberta.ca

The Sustain SU Associate Director will perform the following duties including but not limited to; the managing and coordination of Sustain SU volunteers, providing assistance in the research, development, and facilitation of Sustain SU projects. In addition, the Sustain SU Associate Director will work on specific projects at the direction of the Sustain SU Director.

#### PEER SUPPORT CENTRE Associate Director (2)

TERM: July 1, 2013 – April 30, 2014

HOURS: July 2013, Nov. 1, 2013 – April 30, 2014 15 h/week

Aug. 1, 2013 – Oct. 31, 2013 20 h/week

REMUNERATION: July 2013, Nov. 1, 2013 – April 30, 2014 \$709/month

Aug. 1, 2013 – Oct. 31, 2013 \$946/month

Submit application to johanna.comartin@su.ualberta.ca

The Peer Support Centre (PSC) Associate Director will report to the Director of the PSC. The Associate Director will be responsible for assisting in all aspects of volunteer management including: recruitment, training, scheduling and supervision. The Associate Director will also be responsible for assisting with outreach programs, the resource library, maintaining statistics, volunteer

**NOTE:** The Ombudservice Director application deadline has been extended to April 2, 2013. Full job description available online.

appreciation, and the overall operation of the PSC.



## Opinion

Opinion Editor
Darcy Ropchan
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opinion@gateway.ualberta.ca

Volunteer

Email

Opinion meetings Wednesdays at 5 p.m. in 3-04 SUB. C'mon by!

**EDITORIAL COMMENT** 

## Conservative Pope won't surprise with regressive changes

THE RECENT ELECTION OF POPE FRANCIS TO THE HOLY SEE CAME amid great public interest. For many, the choice of a new Pope was an interesting spectacle that would have little impact on their own lives, and among believers came opinions as individual as Catholics themselves. The most prominent criticism of Francis' selection is his hard line conservatism, particularly in regards to same-sex marriage and abortion, and fears that he'll bring about reactionary reforms. Whatever the validity of this and other similar concerns, the nature of the position and the structure of the Catholic Church will ensure the new Pope will do nothing to upset the natural order of things.

Pre-conclave media attention speculated on the benefits of certain papal candidates: an African Pope would reflect the diversity of the church, and a Canadian Pope would be such a delight in our Canadian way of adoring countrymen of international fame. The conclave eventually chose Jorge Bergoglio, an Argentinean cardinal. While it's good to see a break from European Popes, criticisms abounded on his reactionary values and fear he'll be a step backwards from the modern church.

Of course, this is an organization more concerned with upholding traditional values and expanding it's influence than appearing progressive in the eyes of non-Catholics. The new Pope, regardless of his character, will merely be a continuation of the Vatican hierarchy and will do little to affect the day-to-day lives of Catholics across the world.

From a purely structural perspective, the Pope is a figurehead, the public face of the organization known and recognized worldwide. He's analogous to our own head of state, Queen Elizabeth II, also head of her own church. Like the Queen, the Pope is the source of authority but not the wielder of it in any practical sense. Given the rigours of the job, there's little he can do to influence the running of local parishes or affect the everyday lives of people all over the world. He serves to put a face on the organization.

This isn't to say he has no power — on the contrary, as the public face of the organization, he has incredible political influence and is the Church's foremost diplomat. The natural authority of his station allows him to be a role model to millions and possesses the clout to make or break deals on the international political scene. Imagine if the Queen said all Canadians were smelly. You can imagine there would be considerable blowback — it's the same situation for Pope Francis. His role in world affairs is strictly symbolic and has no major implications.

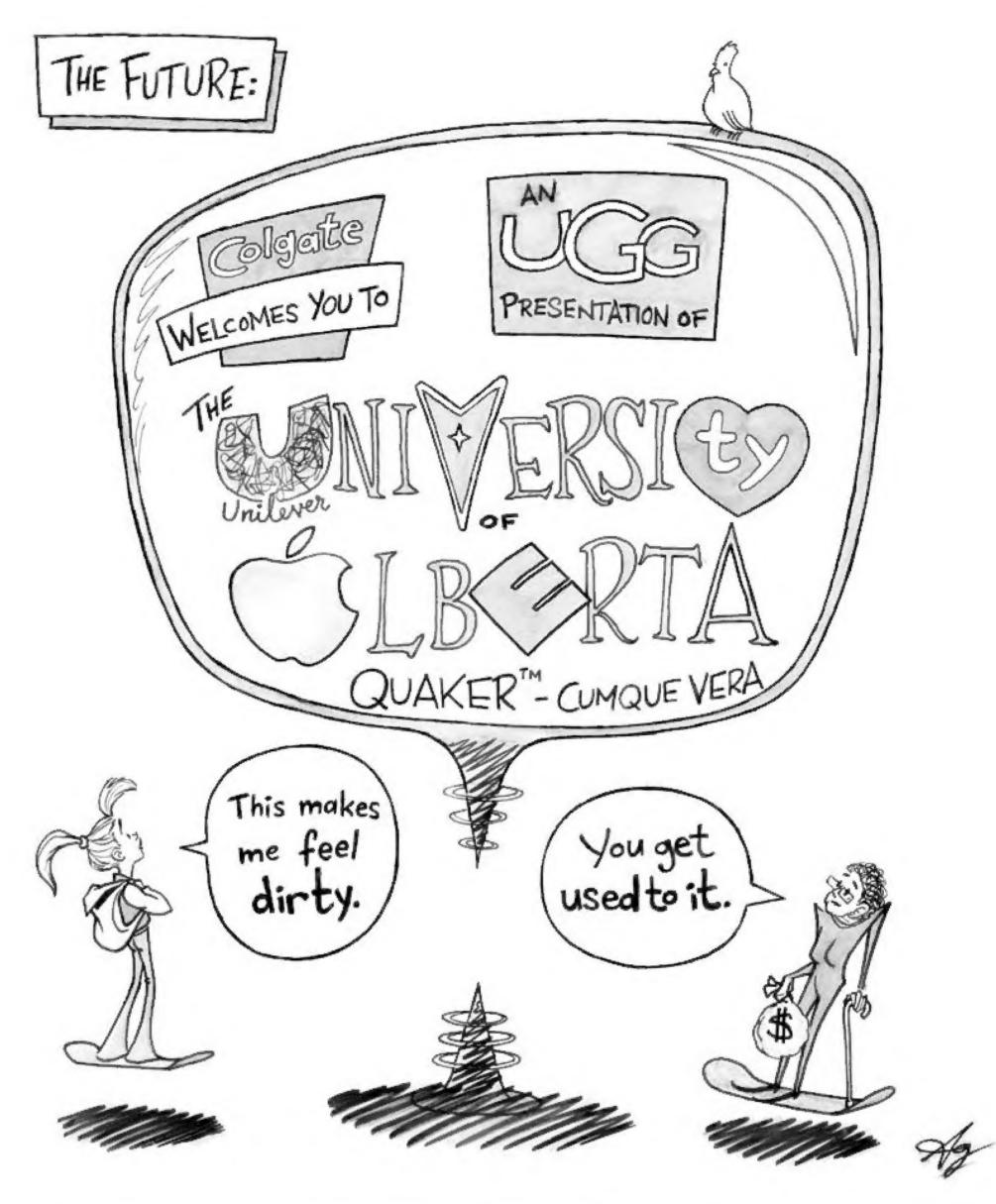
Moreover, the Pope, like any major political figure, has his retinue of secretaries and handlers that arrange his schedule and advise him what to do or say — and in many cases, what not to say. The Catholic church would not have survived were it not for institutional political savvy, and if the Pope wanted to do or say something that would upset their public relations or otherwise reflect poorly on the church, they'd surely be to prevented.

Regarding Bergoglio alleged conservatism, it's unsurprising considering the Catholic church is one of the oldest religious institutions in existence — you can't get more conservative and traditional than that. Not to mention that he was a cardinal elected by a conclave of cardinals who got to be cardinals by toeing the party line. One doesn't get to the upper echelons of the Catholic hierarchy by criticizing the church and being progressive. That kind of tomfoolery is unlikely to endear you to your red-clad electorate.

The personal views of the Pope will likely do little to affect the day-to-day business of local parishes. As a high profile figure with an extremely tight schedule, he'll have no time to meddle in the affairs of the vast majority of church business, which will continue to be handled by the well-established hierarchy of bureaucratic clergy. In as much as the Queen has influence on local transit, Francis can't mess with the lives of Catholics in any significant way. Similarly, no doubt many Catholics disagree with Francis's views, but are still happily members of the church. If you're a Catholic and you've ever had sex before marriage or happen to be gay, you've disagreed with every Pope ever, so one more won't make any difference. And it should go without saying that Pope Francis can only directly influence the Catholic church. Although he may have some pull when it comes to decisions outside it, his papacy ultimately means nothing for non-Catholics.

We'll see in the coming months what Francis will do in his new station. Already he wants to see a more charitable, modest church so there is certainly hope for a positive change. Still, it won't matter much in the long run, and pretty soon we'll stop paying attention when the novelty of a new Pope wears off.

Ross Vincent DESIGN &PRODUCTION EDITOR



ANTHONY GOERTZ

#### letters to the editor

#### FROM THE **WEB**

### You have to pay your Student Union fees

(Re: "Mandatory SU membership is a blatant violation of student rights." by Mercedes Mueller, Mar. 13)

To the extent that your analogy that a Students Union is comparable to a labour union holds, you are largely out of luck. In Lavigne v. Ontario Public Service Employees Union, [1991] 2 S.C.R. 211, an Ontario case, the Supreme Court of Canada unanimously held that whether or not the payment of dues to a union in which one chose not to participate was a violation of freedom of expression or freedom of association the Court was split several ways on whether it was a violation.

Lavigne could not refuse to pay mandatory dues, even the part of his dues that went to support the NDP and other political causes (such as opposing the construction of Skydome and supporting striking coalminers in Scotland) unrelated to collective bargaining and which Lavigne politically opposed. The Canadian Civil Liberties Association, no less, backed the union's position.

In short, having an "opt-out" option didn't reduce his dues or restrict the use to which the union put his dues. Although this reasoning strikes me as deeply flawed and illogical, the courts, unfortunately, would seem unsympathetic to your plight.

Nels Ekelund VIA WEB

## I've had a very similar shitty experience

(Re: "The Burlap Sack — A slithery shitter number two." by Darcy Ropchan, Mar. 13)

This idiot or a clone of this idiot has done the same thing in MSB twice in the past week in the same washroom on 2nd floor, and they even opened up a toilet paper dispenser, dropped a load in on top of the rolls, and then closed it back up. They also did some finger painting on the cubicle walls with their poo.

Stephen VIA WER

### People should realize that SU execs matter

(Re: "Election overhaul necessary for increasing candidate choice." by Ryan Bromsgrove, Feb. 26)

As a former outsider, who organized/planned/and mobilized a team to support a close friend who wanted to run for office, I agree — at least in part — with what hack emeritus said. I was a campaign manager almost two decades ago for a candidate with no council experience, with no Lister or fraternity connections, and with limited previous on campus engagement. We were running against current councilors who were favored (at least by many hacks we talked to) to win. In the end, we trounced them by preparation — for example, reading all SU Bylaws and the University GFC Policy Manual — which was not fun to craft a meaningful platform and 'stump' speech by mobilizing anyone and everyone we knew to be involved, and by working harder than others, visiting more classes, talking to more people. It is certainly possible.

But people need to understand why being an executive member is important. While giving back to the students and tackling very important issues on behalf of students is a major part I hope, for every executive member, the leadership and management skills developed through such a role has an incredibly powerful impact on executive members' future careers — including Mike Hudema. Many of the people from my day who were on the executive are now very successful in their chosen fields and have spread around the world thanks to the opportunities presented to them after graduating from the U of A. The long-term benefits of executive experience are very important, and putting the time in back-in-the-day was totally worth it. Profiling some of them may help motivate new 'outsiders' from putting in the work.

## Former Outsider and Successful Campaign Manager

. . .

Letters to the editor should be sent to letters@gateway.ualberta.ca (no attachments, please).

The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libellous, or otherwise hateful in nature. The Gateway also reserves the right to publish letters online.

Keep on rocking in the free world you guys. Stick it to the man



online at THEGATEWAYONLINE.CA

## "We are not going to run around with our hair on fire."



#### \* IN CONTEXT:

Samarasekera was responding to the recent budget cuts.

## gatewayopinion

It's all about perspective.

MEETINGS WEDNESDAY AT 5 IN 3-04 SUB

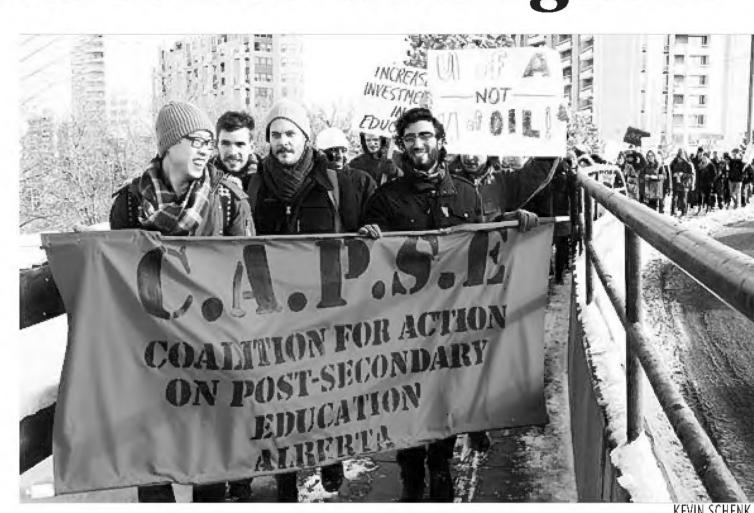
## Protests and social movements cannot achieve the same goals



Annie Pumphrey OPINION STAFF

The effectiveness of protests has been compromised many times with poorly-defined protest/movement events such as the Occupy Movement, and it's also happening nnow, with the current Coalition on Action for Post-Secondary Education (CAPSE). When they're properly organized with clear objectives, protests have the potential for great change. However, the successful protest is becoming a rarity. What we live in is an age of wayward movements.

A week ago, more than 200 people gathered at the University of Alberta to discuss the recent budget cuts and develop a plan of action. Following some overly-generalized speeches that contained phrases such as "students are the future" and "education is the key to success," the supporters broke up into focused discussion groups to cultivate ideas. Topics of conversation included "coalition structuring," "teach-ins," "community outreach" and "Changing conversation around cuts at the U of A." After listening in on a number of different groups, it became clear that everyone was on a different page. Approaches to dealing with the budget cuts ranged from signing oil agreements with Venezuela to yelling profanities during legislative sessions, and although there



were a handful of realistic and well-informed suggestions, they were quickly muddled. This eventually culminated into a 500 plus person march to the Legislature last Friday.

There are two definitions that need to be understood. On one hand there is a protest, which is a demonstration typically organized against a specific policy or change, such as speaking out against the implementation of a new bill. And then there are social movements, which are centered on social goals and are usually more general — such as a demonstration for women's rights. The problem arises when a protest changes into a social movement. In these cases, the specific policy the protest was originally up against gets muddled in the generalizations of a social movement. While those involved may become more elevated and motivated towards change, the likelihood of gaining solid ground becomes less

and less probable. This seems to be happening once again with CAPSE.

Let's face it: it's highly unlikely that Alison Redford is going to change her mind. So instead of spending endless of time and energy fighting against budget cuts, we should be focusing on finding new and innovative ways of dealing with them. Students, professors, executives and administrative staff need to work with each other to make collaborative decisions on what programs and services matter the most, and base the implementation of cuts off those decisions, that way when the cuts do happen, the reasoning behind them will be better understood.

If you plan on attending a CAPSE rally, ask yourself why you're there. Please come up with a better answer than "I'm against budget cuts." Being against something is great, but it's time to realize that opposition doesn't equal change.

#### Justin Trudeau a great fit to lead the Liberals



Cameron Lewis OPINION STAFF

It looks like Justin Trudeau will be following in the footsteps of his late father as the next Prime Minister of Canada — Stephen Harper seems to think so, at least. Last week in the House of Commons, Harper has a minor slip up, referring to the Liberal leadership hopeful as "Minister Trudeau". This Freudian slip may just be a glimpse into the future for the listless Liberals. The younger Trudeau is exactly what the struggling party needs right now.

For the last few years, the Liberal Party of Canada has struggled to find a face. They've plowed through a revolving door of leaders, unable to find a charismatic figure to lead the party back to its former dominance.

With Marc Garneau bowing out of the leadership race last week, Trudeau has essentially been handed the keys to Liberal Party and will be given the task of rebuilding the party after the disastrous 2011 election results with Michael Ignatieff at the helm. Garneau backed out of the campaign for the Liberal leadership due to the overwhelming support Trudeau has received from voters, with 72 per cent backing him and only 15 per cent backing Garneau.

Trudeau has been criticized by his doubters for his lack of concrete ideas, while opposing candidates — such as Garneau — are praised for their experience and well organized policies, plans and

platforms. There's no doubt Garneau — the first Canadian ever to be launched into outer space — had a more concrete platform than Trudeau. Garneau believes in responsible spending, an investment in Canadian-based small and medium sized businesses, investing in the Canadian education system and building a creative economy based around innovation. It's hard to put a finger on exactly what Trudeau believes in — his website doesn't even have a page dedicated to policy — but there's no doubt Canada is his first priority. Trudeau bases his campaign around his passion for Canada and hard work, which more raises questions than it answers.

The Liberals have a lot of smart people with good ideas like Garneau, who will be effective behind the scenes, but the Liberals are in need of somebody like Trudeau who is capable of standing up to Harper and playing the political theatre game — one his father played very well.

For better or for worse, Trudeau will inevitably be compared to his father. Some say that's a bad thing, as Pierre Trudeau — though he was a popular leader in his day — made some controversial choices that alienated western Canadians. His decisions caused much debate, but they were also memorable. Pierre is also remembered for his response to the FLQ crisis, his policies on the importance of bilingualism and multiculturalism, the National Energy Program that forced oil revenue out of Alberta and to the other provinces and his no-nonsense personality. Back in his heyday, Pierre's charisma made the party a force to be reckoned with. If Justin can be anything like his father, he

might be able to rise the Liberals up from the graveyard and inject some new life to the struggling party.

Although he may be inexperienced and his policies aren't yet solidified, Trudeau Jr. gives the Liberals a memorable head to lead the party they've been missing since Jean Chretien retired — which is what they lacked in the last election. Ignatieff was a failure for the Liberal party, not because of his lack of experience or intelligence or because he lacked ideas, his downfall was his non-existent charisma and was unable to match up to the political presence of Harper and Layton. Layton's charisma and personality allowed for his NDP to surpass the Liberals as the official opposition back in 2011, leading to Ignatieff's demise.

With Conservative popularity sliding, its now or never for the Liberals. A recent poll asked 1755 Canadians which party they would vote for if an election was called right now, resulting in 31 per cent for the Conservatives, 30 per cent for the Liberals and 27 per cent for the NDP. A second poll asked which party they'd prefer to vote for if Justin Trudeau wins the Liberal leadership, voters responded 39 per cent for the Liberals, 32 per cent for the Conservatives and 20 per cent for the NDP. Now those numbers don't tell us much when it comes to the next election as winning comes down to getting the most seats, not the most popular votes. But these polls provide some indication about how Canadians feel about a Trudeau led Liberal party.

It seems the younger Trudeau has been groomed to become the leader simply by being the son of a past Canadian Prime Minister, and finally, the time is now for Justin.

## Californian online courses is not a model for universities to follow



Hannah Madsen OPINION STAFF

Budget cuts can make the move towards online education more of a priority, undermining in-classroom instruction and universities themselves in the process. We're seeing this now south of the border.

Last Wednesday, a bill was introduced in the California Senate which proposes online courses as an alternative to the states current educational system, which has been squeezed by budget cuts. At present, there are waiting lists for admission to the state's community colleges that average out to 7,000 waiting students per institution, and California State University has had such a high level of course cuts that only 16 per cent of enrolled students are able to finish their degrees in four years and although this is happening in California, this could have implications for all universities.

However, while the online courses might initially seem like an ideal solution, they are symptomatic of the tendency of government to interfere in the workings of educational institutions. And although universities receive some government funding, governments should not be making decisions on a university's behalf, since the goals of both groups are very different.

Going back to online courses, one particular controversial aspect

of the legislation is a mandate that forces universities to give credit for faculty-approved online courses taught by outside institutions, including private companies. In essence, even though the faculty approves them, the group offering the courses might not be academic at all, effectively outsourcing college instruction. Additionally, online learning itself is problematic, as it removes the classroom aspect from college instruction and could potentially lead to a lack of standardization. Courses from a variety of companies or online institutions maybe accepted but instructors themselves do not possess the requisite Master's or PhD to be considered experts in their fields.

Another problem with online education is the inability of such institutions to validate students as the authors of work submitted — just as there are numerous mailorder universities that give away seemingly-legitimate degrees, students could always pay others to submit work on their behalf and still receive credit for it.

Although this could still happen in a classroom, online courses make it easier. And that doesn't even touch accreditation: if students aren't receiving key courses for their degrees from the educational institutions they attend, the university's accreditation is no longer a valid standard, since part of the learning won't even be taking place at the university itself.

The major problem with this bill has two parts: first, that the government of California feels that it has a right to impose its will on the educational institutions of the state, and second, that more privatization of educational institutions is becoming a very real possibility, thanks to a push towards online education and a view of universities as a business rather than institution's of learning. The issue of government involvement is one that won't be easily solved, but it needs to be: learning should never be regulated or politicized the way it could be after prolonged contact with governmental organizations. The goal of government would be to serve its own goals and standardize as it sees fit without regards to the diverse environment of postsecondary. Emphasizing the individual rather than group learning that is made a priority in classroom settings, is a threat that is becoming more tangible every year.

One possible solution to this whole problem might be to change the format of online learning and orient it more to group learning, such as using Skype conferences led by professors rather than individuals who aren't certified. Or maybe the institutions should be expanded — surely, if there are waiting lists of 7,000 students per school, they could afford to increase their enrolment or the size of the colleges, because the tuition will still be coming in.

But whatever the decision, it should be made within the academy, free of government, because just like church and state should be kept separate, so too should government and education. That way students can learn on non-politicized environments.

## Closing young offenders group home won't save anything at all



Megan Hymanyk OPINION STAFF

A northeast Edmonton group home for young offenders is closing its doors at the end of the month — a detrimental decision for the teens it houses.

Elpida youth home is just one of many government-funded services undergoing massive cuts in the coming year. However, unlike university funding, health care and salaries, Elpida is not just undergoing a reduction in funding, but being shut down with only two weeks' notice. The centre is a small duplex with 12 beds for youths sentenced to open-custody, and is in its 28th year of service. For the past two years, the centre has only been filled to one-third of its capacity, and at the moment has two residents.

While Elpida serves both young men and women, it is only one of two homes that houses female young offenders convicted with open-custody sentences in the province. The young women currently living at the centre will be transferred to the second location in Calgary until local living arrangements can be made. The male offenders who use the home's services will be placed at another home in Edmonton, which is not as severe as the relocation of the women, but could also be seen as disruptive to their recovery.

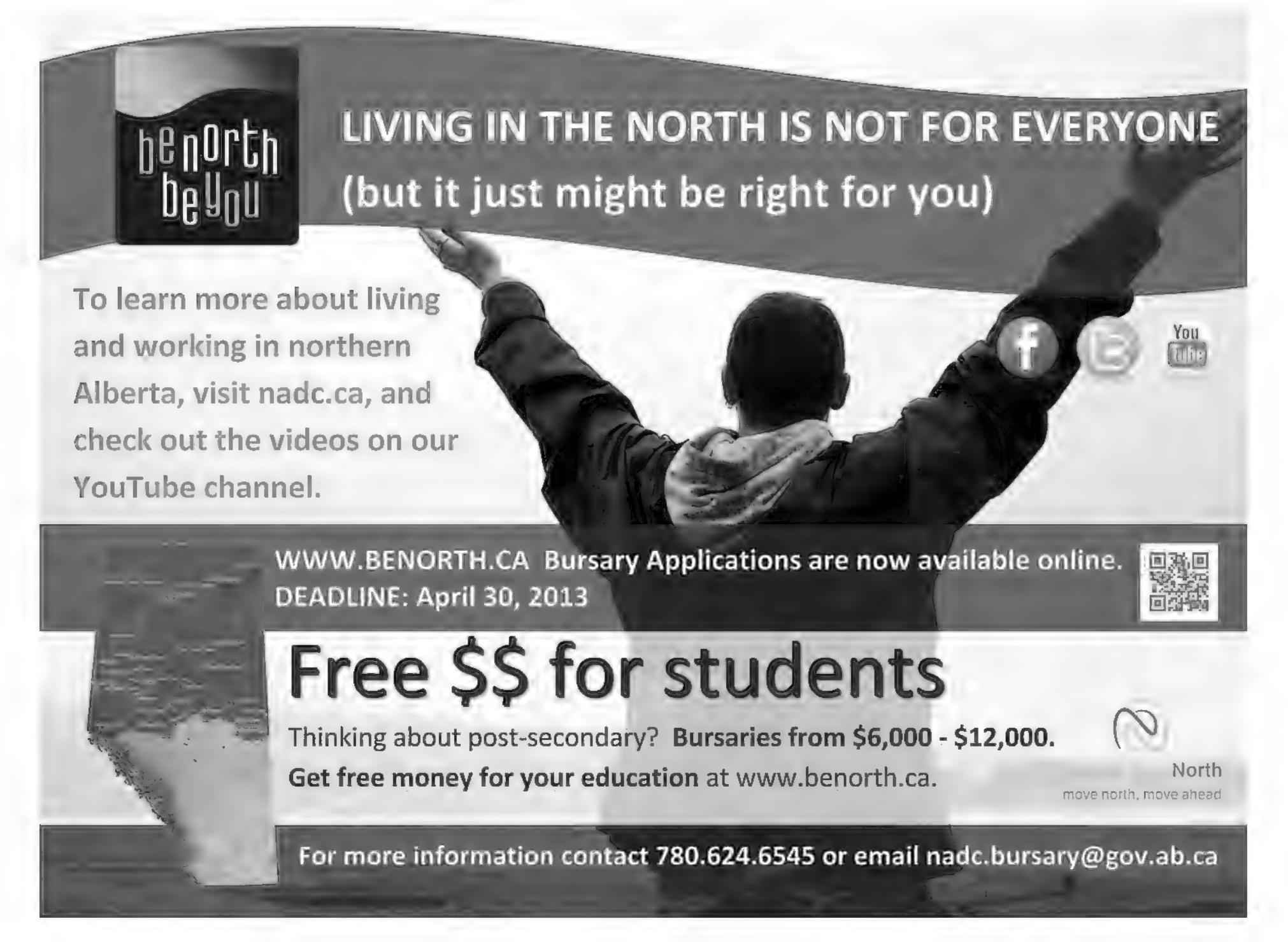
Closing the centre shatters the

progress of the two teens who call Elpida a permanent home, and for numerous others who rely on the program for services. Whereas most Edmontonians wouldn't consider the three-hour driving distance between Calgary and Edmonton a significant move, it could be detrimental to the young women from the home. As the teens move from the city, they are being taken further away from their support system in Edmonton. The removal from friends, family, and staff will do nothing for the teens recovery and their eventual integration into society.

Justice Minister Jonathan Denis commented that if he was confronted with the choice of keeping the home open or employing more police officers, he would choose the latter with the justification of keeping the city safe. By doing so, the government is taking away from a group of people who are already some of society's most vulnerable people.

By ending funding for the program, Redford's Conservative provincial government is sending a harsh message of a complete lack of concern for the young individuals who call Elpida home. By shutting down the building, the government is only saving \$600,000 a year — a miniscule amount when contrasted with the government's revenue.

This issue brings us back to the big picture concerning Alberta's future. Although tough economic times call for cutting and slashing of services, the people who depend on government funding the most shouldn't be left out in the cold.



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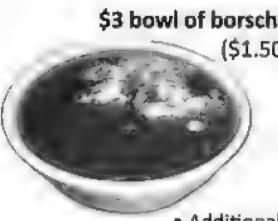
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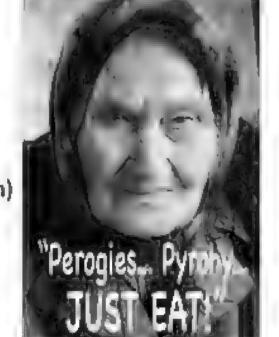
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## The needlessness and necessity of being a nefarious narcissist

There's absolutely nothing wrong with being perfect and in love with yourself



Douche Brewski

POIN'

This might come as a shock to some people, but I'm pretty much the greatest person who ever lived. Why would I care about anyone else? Douche Brewski only looks out for one person: Douche Brewski. I didn't even know the meaning of the word narcissistic until I had to look it up, and I still can't even spell it correctly without double checking first. But spelling doesn't matter when you're as beautiful, jacked and awesome at sex as I am.

Many of my past lovers and onenight stands have complained that I'm too self-involved and in love with myself. Well, if flirting with my reflection in the mirror while I'm having sex makes me a narcissist, then I guess I am. I've also been told that during conversations with other people, I tend to steer the discussion towards myself. Hearing people say all these things about me is just like the time I backpacked around Europe for a month and couldn't work out — terrible.

Some people who don't even lift will tell you that life is all about charity and helping others. I say that's bullshit. It's a dog-eat-dog world out there, and you have to look out for yourself if you're going to survive. That's why I work out every day. I can bench press 450 lbs and run for a mile. The fact that you probably can't do these things means I'm better than you in every way. I mean, come on — do you even lift? If not, I suppose I could teach you, but you still wouldn't have a 10th of my awesomeness.

The worst part about being awesome and knowing it is that some people — like my court-ordered therapist - will tell you narcissism is a mental disorder and it should be treated as such. People are basically telling me not to be myself. I'm a beautiful, unique flower that deserves to be out in the sun. I don't need some geek therapist saying there's something wrong with me. Nothing's wrong with me. I'm perfect.

Narcissism even saved my life one time. I was driving my car last winter, minding my own business and checking out how I look in my rearview mirror, when I passed a person

stranded on the side of the highway. It was freezing outside and because I was too busy falling in love with myself, I didn't have time to stop and help that stranded person. That saved my life, as it was very cold out and that person could have been a killer. I don't know for sure that he was, but you can never be too careful.

Many of my past lovers and one-night stands have complained that I'm too self-involved and in love with myself. Well, if flirting with my reflection in the mirror while I'm having sex makes me a narcissist, then I guess I am.

I wish people would stop calling me out for being narcissistic and just realize what great person I am. I'm a selfless person. I'm smart, witty and attractive and I work out every day. I make the world a better place just by being alive.

#### Life is all about loving others and helping the less fortunate through charity



Darcy Ropchan

Being narcissistic is not the way to get ahead in life — and besides, it makes you look like a jerk. Life is all about being kind, helping others just being as selfless as possible. Narcissists never win at life, and they'll end up sad and alone.

There's nothing wrong with being confident and assertive, but there's a thin line between confidence and being a narcissistic douche bag. As Kevin Spacey once said, "There's so much beauty in the world." You can't experience that if you're constantly looking at your reflection in a mirror. Love others, not yourself that's what I always say.

Have you ever had a conversation with a narcissist at a party? It's terrible. They try to veer the conversation towards themselves and their exploits. The worst part is that they're always trying to one-up your stories

and talk about that time they backpacked through Europe. Nobody cares and nobody asked you. Conversations are all about listening to the other person.

Have you ever had a conversation with a narcissist at a party? It's terrible. They try to veer the conversation towards themselves and their exploits.

Narcissism is also a mental disorder, in case you didn't know. In fact, superficial charm and a grandiose sense of self-worth are some of the symptoms of being a psychopath. That's a pretty scary thought.

Not being a narcissist and choosing selflessness has helped me save people's lives. I'm always volunteering to plant trees and pick up litter. Maybe that doesn't actually save any lives — or really accomplish anything — but it makes me feel like a

much better person. Life is all about giving back to others.

Another important thing narcissists miss out on is love. Life is all about love. How can you meet and fall in love with another person when you can't stop being in love with yourself? That's not the way to be. I'm always a nice guy and I'm told that I'm a great listener. Sure, being overly nice and available may have put me in the friendzone more than a few times, but there's nothing wrong with being just friends with a member of the opposite sex. Narcissists are just in it for the sex and the immediate gain. Nice guys may finish last, but at least we have the moral high ground. That thought helps me when I'm sleeping alone at night.

If nothing else, think of the children. Do we really want them growing up in a world where they think being a selfish asshole is the way to act towards others? No, we don't. Because I genuinely believe that children are our future, I'm always volunteering to help them out with reading and learning. You won't see a narcissistic person volunteering their time to do that.

## An ode to the cursive capital G



Elliot Chan
THE OTHER PRESS

Dear Letter G,

I didn't think much of you the first time we met. I was young and ignorant and you were just amongst the other 25 letters hidden somewhere in the middle, quiet and passive. I apologize now for the way I neglected you, remembering all those hours wasted with vowels — those damn popular vowels.

Hell, I still find myself asking sometimes, "Why?" Why couldn't I see something right in front of me? Can you blame a fool for learning? As I matured, my view changed about you. Learning cursive was like seeing the tomboy dolled up on prom night.

Stunning. Suddenly the "Plain Jane 'G'" I remembered as a child was all grown up. Your curves, your points and the way you swoop up at the end when I write you. You are like no other letter in the alphabet. Nay, there is no other character in all of language like you. You are the perfect symbol, the perfect image, and the perfect mark. There is something about that little loop on

"I envy the Ginos, the Gunthers and the Guys, because I too wish I had the privilege of scripting you every time I sign as myself. I'll think of you in every cheque I write, in ever contract I receive, and in every credit card purchase I make."

your top left, like an eye. I know you see me, winking at me. I see you too, but you know that already.

I envy the Ginos, the Gunthers and the Guys, because I too wish I had the privilege of scripting you every time I sign as myself. I'll think of you in every cheque I write, in ever contract I receive, and in every credit card purchase I make.

Sadly, you are a rarity and a treat. I find you in intimidating moments when I open sentences with "God," "Gun" or "Girl," but then you sooth me with inspirations such as "Glorious," "Great" and "Glad." Regardless of the meaning, every word with you in it is significant.

I can't help but pity other letters. The lower case "A" with its ambiguous form, the loop, the vertical line on the right — but what about the arch above? Like many others I neglect that extra modification, but some believe lower case "A" needs cosmetics.

Some letters are just the means to an end, such as the cursive lower case "R" and lower case "N," — they

always look the same when I write too fast. I see nothing in them. There's no other letter with your distinct characteristics, but that's not to say they don't try.

There is the capital cursive "Q," uncommon unless it's used as the number two. The capital "Z" built with impressive curves, but it's aesthetically a "J" that works out. Your closest comparison is perhaps cursive capital "S," but the extra flourish it requires takes away from its beauty. "G," you remain my one and only.

I know it's crazy, because we're so different: you, the seventh letter in the alphabet, and me, a human man going through a complicated phase, but I believe we can make this work. Consider it a game or consider it growth, but whatever it is we're doing, I know you're write for me. So take a step back and look at the big picture.

If love is a prison, then I hope my sentence begins with the letter

From the tip of my pen, Elliot Chan.

## #311

three free

Who will take up that table for 10

hours a day in HUB in the summer?

Truly devastated to see you go. 15

great years. And great food. That

Zeert Zeert, Cosmic Lazer All-Stars

Does anybody hate the Fish Bowl

Student lounge (205) as much as

I do? A private lounge for snotty

elitist medical students to prac-

tice shitty and loud rock music.

What a fucking waste of money?

No wonder people can't stand

you eat, not the customers.

Got something that you need to get off your mind? Either email us at threelinesfree@gateway. ualberta.ca, tweet @threelinesfree, or message us at www.thegatewayonline.ca/threelinesfree

Don't be a cynic. Anybody can be a loser. Try being a winner for a change.

The Hub Book seller is closing. Bad decision U of A trolls. The SUB bookstore blows dog. Shitty, overpriced books and shit service.

I am so fucked for my ochem midterm tomorrow. I do not understand chirality or stereochemistry ATALL and I am sitting in my room crying....by myself. Ready to die.

I feel ridiculously happy that FAB now has automatic doors leading into the HUB pedway. #SmallPleasures

WHY ARE YOU FORCING ME TO CLIMB UP AN ESCALATOR?! These are moving stairs for a reason. Learn the rules of transit: walk left, stand right. It's a universal rule, people.

Please extend the library hours in the summer. I am tired of seeing the same miserable losers in the study hall. Butts

Hello Mr. Ropchan, it is I, the poop rascal you so desperately seek. Last weeks sudoku done fucked Doctors.
you've nobody to blame but yourself

hey grumpy bitch! sorry to see the other three horsemen haven't joined you on earth yet... but cheer

D.Ropchan. The apoocalypse has only just begun

i dedicate my next song

to you my friend <3

I'm not to blame, you are. It's all your fault . You're crazy.

Dicks.

The Gateway reserves the right to refuse publication of any 3LF it deems racist, sexist, libellous or otherwise hateful in nature.





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## Replacement records for U of A's former dodgeball glory



Opinion
Staff
GROUP COMMENTARY

Ever since UC Irvine retook the Guiness world record for largest dodgeball game in the fall, there's been a distinct lack of dodgeball this year on campus. It's really depressing to be honest.

In fact, the university has done nothing to carve out a new world record. It's time to get off our butts and do something about it. Luckily *The Gateway* has some ideas for a few other ways we can achieve worldwide greatness.

#### Annie Pumphrey

There are a lot of rabbits on campus — Too many, some might say, and it's time to put those creepy creatures to use. Let's make the U of A home to the world's largest taxidermy rabbit statue.

The task would be a simple one: offer small monetary rewards to students for each rabbit captured, then sew them all together into one massive rabbit. Ideally, this rabbit statue would be placed in the middle of quad, acting as a symbol of campus pride as well as a tourist attraction.

Additionally, the rabbit statue would serve as a warning for other rabbits on campus to stop reproducing. Before long, the U of A will be free of those disease-spreading mutant beasts.

After all, the best world records are the ones that not only set a record, but serve a purpose.



THAT WILL SHOW THOSE LITTLE BASTARDS A giant taxidermied rabbit would be a lovely addition to campus. ILLUSTRATION STEFANO LIN

#### Megan Hymanyk

The U of A needs a new record to beat and students are up in arms about the 2012-13 school year and its lack of record breaking. In an attempt to discover what new world record the university will have to overcome, picture the ultimate record to defeat: the world's largest garage sale.

Envision quad in your mind: a large expanse of open space, littered only with a fresh layer of snow, just waiting to be put to use all winter long. It's perfectly suited for the unfolding of collapsible tables and chairs, and will be the perfect setting for the display of childhood possessions. With this record, quad will fulfill its ultimate purpose in order to beat the current record holders at the Warrensburg garage sale. Lets shove aside those record setting little old ladies and bring shame to the suburbia of Warrensburg. Surely the U of A's multitude of students can defeat a thousand little old grannies.

Not only will breaking this record bring fame and glory to the U of A, but it will kill two birds with one stone. It provides ample opportunity to take those textbooks from years past out of a dusty closet and sell them to unsuspecting high schoolers just enrolling in their first year. Second of all, the profits can be put towards the U of A, seeing as it's a bit strapped for cash with the upcoming budget cuts.

#### Scott Fenwick

The easiest way for the U of A to set a record is by neglecting its buildings, becoming the university with the most crumbling infrastructure. Given the cuts to post secondary in the provincial budget, this will

probably happen anyhow — whether or not we want it.

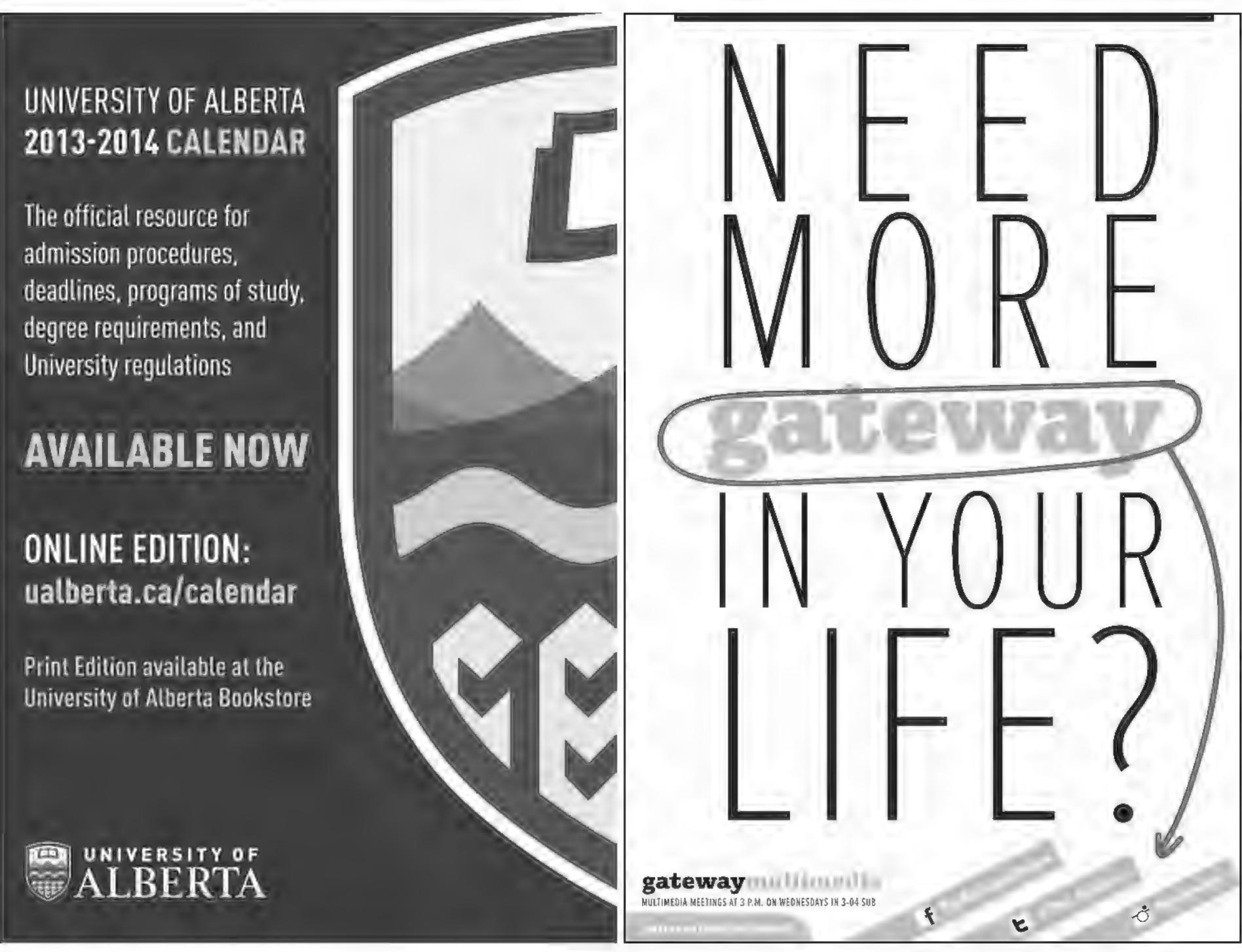
Whether it be the crappy elevators in SUB, questionable living conditions in HUB and Lister or the random hole in a BioSci wall I found a few years ago, by doing nothing, we can bring this experience to the entire campus. This is the kind of record fiscal hawks of all stripes at the legislature can support us on.

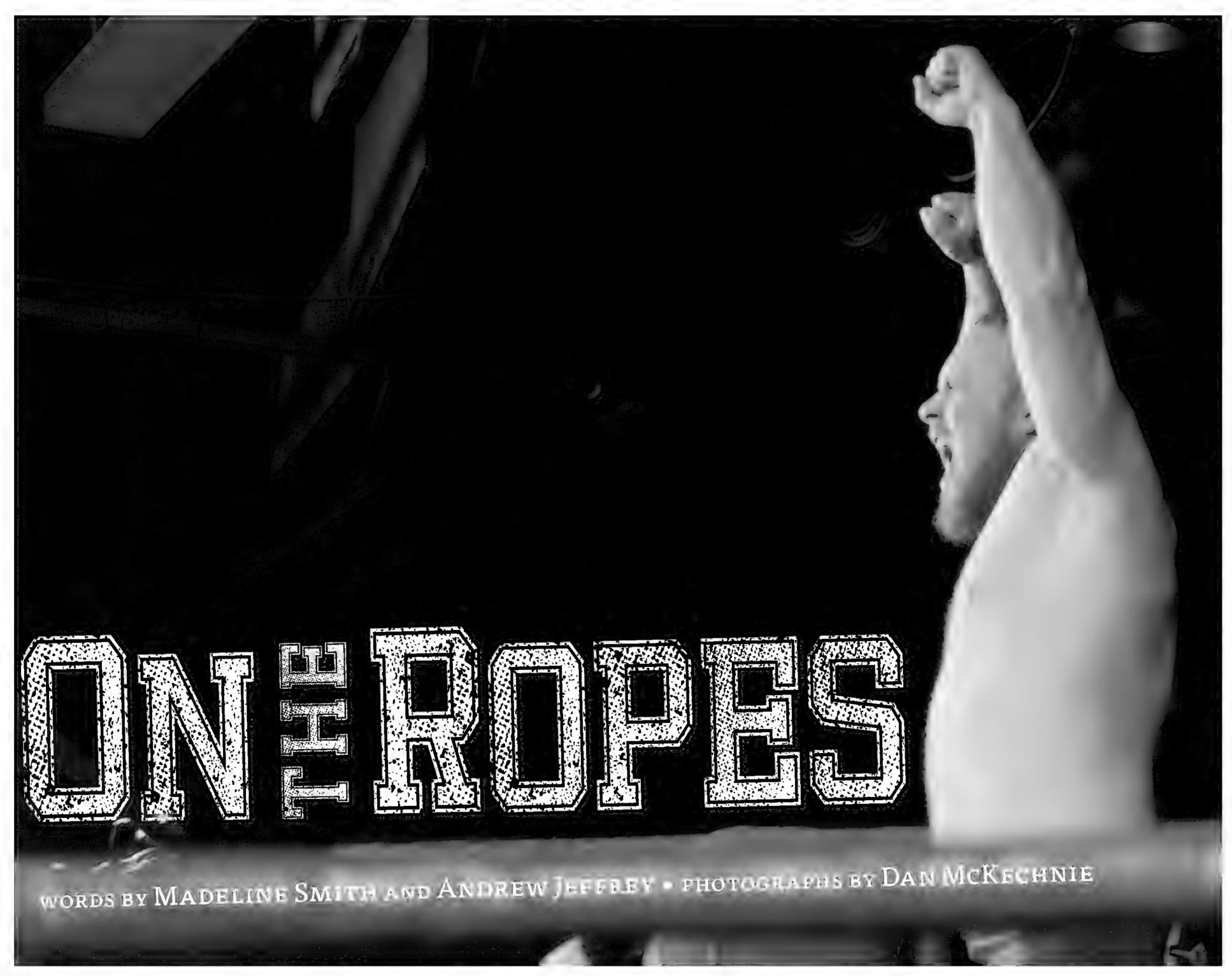
Although president Indira Samarasekera spoke of getting the U of A into the "top 20 by 2020" a few years ago, this is a record the university can aspire to effortlessly. As long as no one accidentally inhales asbestos or touches a bare wire laying around, this is something everyone can celebrate.

#### Hannah Madsen

As an alternative to the world's largest dodgeball match, the U of A could surely get into the Guinness Book of World Records by building the world's largest ice hotel. After all the climate is perfect — Edmonton is freezing for so much of the school year and we get such crazy amounts of snow that a hotel would last for an incredibly long time. As well, it would generate all kinds of supplementary revenue for the university, and would spruce campus up, a gigantic hotel made of crystalline ice would look very classy indeed.

But beyond questions of revenue and esthetics, building an ice hotel would set our university apart because the dodgeball competition is one in which many universities compete in, but an ice-building competition? That's one *nobody* participates in, and it's ripe for the taking.





very month, the Century Casino showroom in northeast Edmonton hosts a theatrical spectacle unlike any other. Audience members scream insults at the performers while a classic good guy vs. bad guy struggle plays out in front of them — and the entertainers respond in turn, alternately celebrating with the crowd or heckling them right back, just as into the outrageous display as the spectators themselves. You'd be hard-pressed to find this kind of dynamic anywhere other than pro wrestling, and it's all from Alberta's own independent promotion, the Prairie Wrestling Alliance (PWA).

If you've never seen a live wrestling show, you may not find quite the crowd you're expecting: a mass of kids who all look somewhere between the ages of six and 12 rush to the front to high-five their favourite wrestlers when they make their entrance, middle-aged  $couples \, yell \, in sults \, at the \, villains \, and \, groups \, of \,$ 20-something guys watch every move intently,

exclaiming loudly at especially impressive skills. It's fast-paced, exciting and raucous, but most importantly, it's also a family show. At one point, a wrestler gets a little carried away heckling his opponent and a "goddamn" slips out — his challenger in the ring counters by threatening to wash his mouth out with soap.

The rest of the crowd isn't always so careful

when they're waiting for the infamous Chucky Blaze.

with their words as they shout out reactions

to the matches, and they get especially vocal

#### THE WRESTLERS

The chorus of booing starts up the moment he appears from behind the curtain. As the current tag-team champion, he comes out with both shining belts over his shoulder to upstage his wrestling partner Azrael — all part of the exaggerated bravado of his character. He looks the part of the rebellious troublemaker, but with a wrestling twist: tight black shorts with pink accents, matching black and pink boots and platinum blonde hair that reaches past his shoulders with another shock of bright pink that hangs over his eyes. He postures himself in the ring and takes the microphone from the announcer to face the captive crowd.

"I am God's gift to wrestling," he proclaims. "And I have more confidence than ever before."

The crowd boos even more enthusiastically and the chant "Chucky sucks" starts up before any of the action in the ring even begins.

"I am God's gift

to wrestling."

~ Michael Blais

But all the voices just add more fuel to his bravado, and as he keeps talking, he ramps up taunts and insults directed at the crowd, building up to the night's

big announcement — a defining, potentially career-changing moment for the wrestler.

"I've convinced all you idiots that my name is Chucky Blaze. But now, things are different. My name is Michael Richard Blais," he spits into the microphone. "B-L-A-I-S."

It's a big change from when Blais, now 23, first got into wrestling in his early teens.

"When I first started ... nobody wanted to use kids under 18 — nobody. And especially since I was a really bad-looking kid. When I was 15, I was 230 pounds. Like, really fat," he says.

In the Century Casino Showroom the afternoon before a show, the PWA wrestlers gather to practice and plan their matches together. While Blais takes some time away, the other wrestlers take turns slamming each other onto the mats, the floor banging loudly as they pound each other into the ground. Outside the ring, Blais is much more dressed down compared to his onstage outfit, but the leopard print headband keeping his bright blonde hair back hints at his larger-than-life persona. He's one of the most vocal wrestlers during shows, commanding the mic to rile up the crowd with villainous tirades. But as naturally as the bad guy role seems — or in wrestling terms, "heel" — it took Blais a while to establish the persona fans now know so well.

Blais spent the first eight years of his career playing the good guy to fans at the wildly popular Calgary-based Stampede Wrestling shows, drawing the adoration of crowds with the strange sight of a self-proclaimed fat kid doing full backflips onto opponents off the top rope. It wasn't easy for fans to start cheering against him later in his career, but it was even more difficult for Blais to get himself in a ring in front of fans in the first place.

> It took \$1,000 from his grandparents and monthly \$200 payments from his parents for Blais to enroll himself in training, and even that came at an age much younger than most schools would now allow anyone to start.

Most of his training came from current WWE wrestler, Calgary-born TJ Wilson — or Tyson Kidd as he's now known professionally — who continues to give Blais advice to this day. Eventually, with Kidd's encouragement and help, PWA founder Kurt Sorochan brought Blais to his promotion.

Now Blais works days with Sorochan doing data entry for an oil company, and he uses most of those funds to support his wrestling career. He pays hundreds of dollars for new tights and





spends most of his spare time working out and doing yoga, training for his next match and trying to improve himself to the point where he can commit to wrestling full-time. But beyond building his physique, Blais is also focused on his acting and performing skills — a unique aspect of wrestling that separates it from other similarly physical pursuits.

"I've come a long way with my build, muscular-wise and weight-wise, but I've still got a long way to go," he says. "And a lot of people don't think about it, but talking's so important in wrestling because we're telling stories. My thing is I want to get to a point where I can tell a story that would take most people to tell in 10 minutes, that I can say in one, because that's what they want down there (in the WWE).

"Tanning is another big thing," he laughs.
"I just went nuts and got a spray tan, and I still don't think I'm dark enough for wrestling."

While some in the PWA's roster are content with being in the business as a hobby, Blais has hopes to make a career in wrestling outside the independent circuit. His style in the ring takes cues from his trainer and mentor Kidd, and he's looking ahead to the new year, determined to get his name out in other wrestling promotions.

"I just took out a \$15,000 line of credit that I'm completely willing to go in complete debt for, just to pay for flights to fly myself to the U.S. and wrestle for a place, fly myself to England and wrestle for a place," Blais explains. "Because right now, unfortunately, I'm not ready to go to WWE, look-wise and talking-wise. I really have to work on it."

For another wrestler hated by the PWA faithful, Nizar Watfa — otherwise known as Sheik Akbar Shabaz — never imagined working for a pro wrestling promotion would even be a part-time hobby.

When Wafta was first invited by one of his friends to train as a wrestler with the PWA seven years ago, he thought it was a joke. While he was a lifelong wrestling fan who watched televised matches religiously, Wafta had never thought to enter the business himself and had no idea what to expect.

"(The trainers) beat the hell out of me," he laughs. "At the time, I didn't think it was bad, but the next day I couldn't move. It

took me about a week and a half before I could move



comfortably again."

Despite the pain, Wafta stuck with wrestling, and now plays a character reminiscent of classic villians such as the Iron Sheik. His goal, he says, is to make even his friends in the crowd hate him. When he enters the ring, the audience needs to feel satisfied that paying to watch him get beaten up is money well spent.

"I try to think of every aspect of the character as I can to annoy people," Wafta explains. "I do a lot of people watching — I always thought those Ed Hardy t-shirts were really douchey because they're all flashy, so I bedazzled my wrestling boots and got this really stupid black and gold robe. I come out really arrogantly ... I have a towel around my neck that I'll put over people's faces because I think they're so ugly, or I'll just throw it in somebody's face."

Outside the ring, however, Sheik Akbar Shabaz gives way to Watfa's calm demeanour and easygoing sense of humour. In this day and age, wrestling fans are aware that the sport is staged, and the performers are just that — performing and acting as colourful characters to entertain the audience.

"My wrestling character is here, and when I'm not in wrestling, I want to be nice and polite, because I don't want people to say 'Oh, that Sheik guy is so rude to my kids,' or 'I've seen him be a jerk to this person,'" Wafta says.

#### THE BOSS

For Kurt Sorochan, PWA's founder, co-owner and commissioner, making fans feel welcomed into the independent wrestling family is paramount — and lately, even his own teenage son has been taking his turn in the ring, finding his own place in the spotlight. Sorochan has been involved in the wrestling business for decades, but after helping with an attempt to bring back Stampede Wrestling in the late '90s, he decided to establish his own promotion in 2001.

The first two PWA shows had some unexpected setbacks, with a faulty ring that forced them to cancel the first event. It nearly derailed the second again when it broke in the middle of the show, but the company kept pushing forward. Twelve years later, they've established their own dedicated following and have even sent a few wrestlers to the WWE.

"If our guys want to go to the next level — WWE — they've got to have polish, they've got to be professional, and it starts here. If there's competition out there, we always want to be better; we want to stand out. Not just to get the crowd in, but just for our guys to get noticed."

After bouncing around different venues, moving from the Shaw Conference Centre to NAIT and now to the Century Casino, the next challenge the PWA will face is the possibility of another move. At the same time, Sorochan deals with all the day-to-day

trials and tribulations of keeping the PWA machine moving and fostering its unique community.

"I've got 30 guys I have to keep happy," he says. "You want to give them as much work as possible — everyone wants to be in the show ... And there's a family ideology, that we're all family backstage. There's conflict. We don't always agree, not everyone always gets along and I have to be the glue that holds it together."

He also emphasizes the family atmosphere both in the company and the audience. If Sorochan has to search for another venue soon, he says one of his top priorities is making sure it's kid-friendly. It's easy to see why, as plenty of young adults today still

fell apart at their debut show. Afterwards, he trained with PWA's senior referee official and started refereeing matches, a job he did for 10 years.

While Roznicki laughingly acknowledges the fact that in wrestling, "no one really likes refs," he takes the job he once did very seriously. Even now, as a wrestler himself, he can't help keeping an eye out for his opponent during every match, watching for unsafe moves and monitoring potential injuries.

"In the beginning (of the PWA), people did a lot more crazy, unsafe things," he says. "It looks very good to the fans, but it's very dangerous for the wrestlers."

But while injuries — and especially



have fond memories of the glory days of pro wrestling in the '80s and '90s, and keep the action figures of their favourite wrestlers to prove it.

But as hard as Sorochan works to keep PWA progressing, there are always some aspects of the business he can't control. And with some major public instances of the after-effects of injuries in wrestling, he and the wrestlers are all very aware of the importance of keeping things safe.

#### THE RISKS

Richard Roznicki, known as Richie Rage in the wrestling world, has a different kind of appreciation for just how much wrestlers put their bodies at risk. Solidly built with muscled arms, he looks like thre consummate picture of a wrestler, but despite his showy name and persona in the ring, he has a soft-spoken, quiet demeanour in real life. While he now takes centre stage in the ring on a regular basis, for years Roznicki was doing work for PWA behind the scenes. He's started with the company in its very beginnings, rebuilding and repairing the original ring after it

concussions — are a major concern in wrestling, risks are acknowledged, but that doesn't stop people from pushing themselves to perform. Proper training and commitment to learning how to perform moves safely is paramount, but for the wrestlers, the rewards are worth the potential price. Watfa points out the friendship between wrestlers in the ring is often the most important thing: the trust gives opponents the confidence to try risky moves while still looking out for each other during matches.

Ultimately, even though he has some current wrestling injuries he's dealing with, he doesn't view taking part in matches as an unreasonable hazard.

"It's like crossing the street — you could get hit by a car," he says. "Or you could take a bad bump (while wrestling) and break your arm. You could try to be as safe as you can, but nothing's going to be 100 per cent."

While Roznicki has a different kind of first-hand experience with injuries — he once witnessed a friend sustain a concussion so severe he couldn't remember how to spell or shift gears in his car — he shares Watfa's sense of commitment despite the perceived dangers.

"That's the nature of this business:



everybody's going to put their body on the line. Even if you don't want to, you end up doing it," he says.

"A lot of people say wrestling's fake, and it's not. Come train, see what it's like," he continues. "When people actually do enter the ring, they gain a lot more respect for it."

#### THE FANS

While the wrestlers rehearse their moves in the showroom, Denise Carter sits in the Century Casino lobby, hours before the scheduled start time, counting down to when the doors finally open.

"I'm so excited," she says. "I love the in-ring action, and when they hit the mat and it just pounds, it goes right through my heart."

Carter never misses an Edmonton PWA show, and each one is a special occasion she comes prepared with gifts of appreciation for the wrestlers and homemade posters to hold up during matches, with the hopes that the guys might notice them and maybe, if she's lucky, rip them up. Every wrestler knows her and greets her by name, and she has Sorochan's personal number in her cell phone.

She's only been coming to PWA shows for a year, but Carter might just be the company's most dedicated fan. A wrestling devotee since childhood, she always enjoyed watching Stampede Wrestling and WWE, but she's found her true home with PWA. And when she isn't at shows, she's still talking about them, trying to recruit her Walmart coworkers as new PWA fans.

"They got so sick of me talking about my show — I call it my show," she laughs.

But relentless wrestling enthusiasm aside, Carter isn't wrong when she says PWA is "hers." She exudes openness and positivity, and when she talks about wrestling, her eyes light up with infectious excitement. There's a tangible piece of herself that she contributes

to the PWA, and the wrestlers give it all back in performance.

Carter is aware that wrestling is "fake," but that doesn't take away from the unique, oneon-one audience interaction that's only possible in a pro wrestling setting. Unlike other kinds of sports events, wrestlers can hear you from the crowd and will often even respond back. And most importantly, everyone involved with PWA knows Carter and will go out of their way to make her feel welcome.

"Some promoters don't give a shit about you — you're just there for a buck. But this company, you're there, you're treated like family," Carter svays.

"When I walked into thvs venue, that's the first thing I felt. I belonged here. I was just there for the night, but it was like, 'Hey, come and stay!" she grins. "And now I'm a hardcore fan."

#### THE SHOW

When the lights go down and the announcer starts the show that evening, Carter is sitting in a special VIP section behind the ring with the same bright, giant grin, and it doesn't let up for the entire two and a half hours of matches. When the wrestler featured on one of her posters spots it, he grabs it away and rips it up, exactly like she said. She smiles even wider.

Despite appearances, the world of pro wrestling is complicated and dense. There's an entire vocabulary of special moves and championship titles to learn, and a whole history of famous figures to understand. Fans rattle off lists of their favourite wrestlers and significant moments just like a devoted follower of any mainstream sport or athletic team. Behind the stigma of the violent spectacle and the judgment around how the matches are "rigged" or "manipulated," at its heart, the focus of pro wrestling is its community.

As Sorochan points out, for Blais, wrestling is essentially his life. Blais himself notes one of his earliest memories is of watching wrestling, as a three-year-old boy stumbling upon an episode of WWF Monday Night Raw that featured famed Calgarian Bret "The Hitman" Hart. And despite the difficult path to stardom, Blais finds himself drawn to the squared circle by the memories he has and the interaction he can only find with pro wrestling fans.

"It's just those 15 minutes when I get in the ring. It's weird — I'm a different person, just hearing those people cheer and knowing I have people in the palm of my hand. I can't do that in real life to people, but here I can take people and mold them into whatever I want at the time."

As for why any of the wrestlers do what they do, everyone seems to have the same answer. It's something they can't quite put their finger on, but wrestling captivates them, keeps them coming back to train more, learn how to entertain the crowd better and transform themselves for their brief time in the ring.

"When I started to ref I got an itch," Roznicki explains. "I started training and I had my first match I was thrown into ... I had that match, and that's when I told Sorochan, wrestle.'

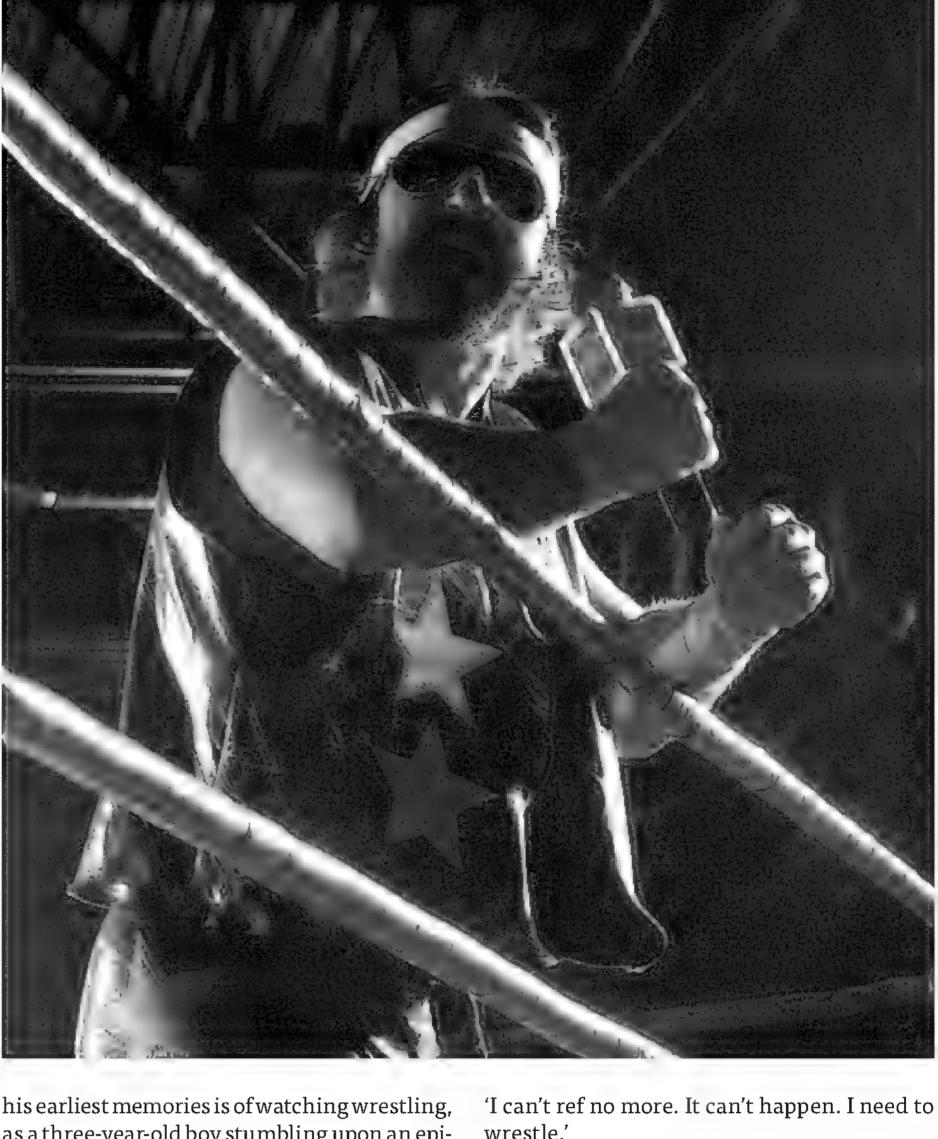
"Once I was in there, it was over."

As for Watfa, he might have a bit more of a love-hate relationship with wrestling, but it still holds that same inexplicable draw.

"You just do it. It's like being a bad relationship where you don't get out of it," he says. "She yells at you and complains and you hate it, but at the end of the day, you're happy you still do it."

The motley crew of wrestlers draws a similarly varied crowd to every show, whether  $they're \, hard core \, regulars \, or former \, Stampede$ and WWF fans looking for a nostalgic wrestling fix. Whatever preconceptions there are about pro wrestling, it's built around a core of people who all want to be part of something together, coming together in a new, fantastical world of heroes and villains.

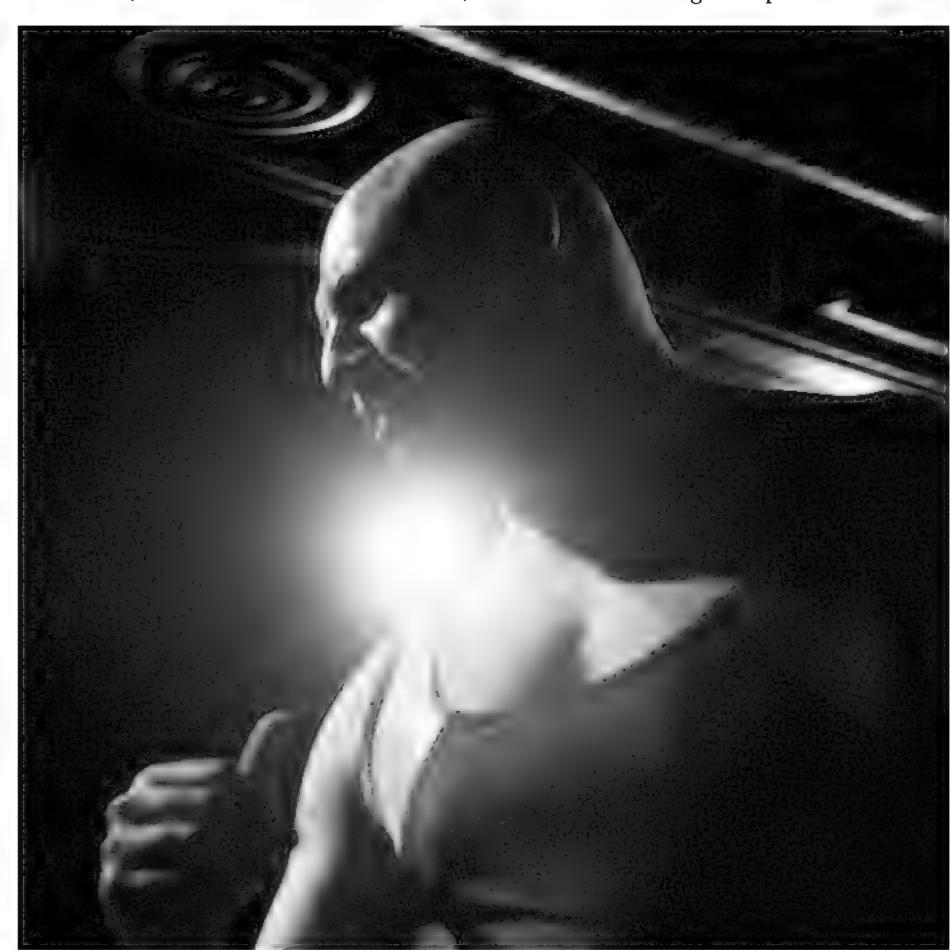
"It's cool to see those kinds of people that get together in one group and just act the same, be the same and not show judgment towards each other," Watfa says. "It's like how society is — people come here to watch us be idiots and forget our problems."





"Some promoters don't give a shit about you you're just there for a buck. But this company, you're there, you're treated like family."

> ~ Denise Carter, PWA überfan



## Arts & Culture

**Arts & Culture Editor** 

Alana Willerton

Phone

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Volunteer

A&C meetings Wednesdays at 4 p.m. in 3-04 SUB.

#### social intercourse

COMPILED BY Paige Gorsak

#### Western Canada Fashion Week

Thursday, March 21 - Thursday, March 28 at 8 p.m.
Transalta Arts Barn (10330 84 Ave.)
\$25 per night at tixonthesquare.com

It may not be Paris or Milan, but Western Canada Fashion Week prides itself on show-casing the incredible talent of Canadian designers and the way they're changing the fashion scene. Each evening of the weeklong event caters to a different element of fashion, featuring everything from clothing designers to jewelry artisans and makeup to hairstyling. Some events welcome emerging designers from the Canadian fashion scene, while other nights showcase the talent of local returning artists. More information and the event schedule can be found at westerncanadafashionweek.com.

#### Michael Ondaatje

Thursday, March 21 at 8 p.m.
Grant MacEwan University, Main Gym
(10700 104 Ave.)
\$6 for student admission, \$29.10 for student admission and a copy of the book at tixonthesquare.com

The cruise ship Oronsay is sailing from Colombo to England, harbouring three inquisitive 11-year-old boys and the dark secrets of the boat's other passengers. Over the duration of the three-week journey, the boys' curiosity tangles them up in dangerous situations and the complexities of adult life, and they disembark as changed people. It's the story of Michael Ondaatje's *The Cat's Table*, named the MacEwan Book of the Year by a committee of students and staff. This event features Ondaatje himself reading from the novel, signing books and answering questions in a interview with Michael Hingston of the *Edmonton Journal*.

#### **Billy Talent**

with Sum 41, Hollerado and Indian Handcrafts Friday, March 22 at 7 p.m.
Shaw Conference Centre (9797 Jasper Ave.)
\$63.75 at ticketmaster.ca

Fans seem to share a love-hate relationship with bands like Billy Talent and Sum 41. As markers of our teen years, their music either induces lingering nostalgia or cringe-worthy memories. On the other hand, their transcendence from their fans' adolescence to adult-hood shows the staying power of catchy guitar riffs and coarse, yelling lyrics. Both Canadian bands headline a show at the Shaw, proving that even though their signature styles have never really evolved, there's merit in the sentimentality of angry punk rock bands.

#### **Matt Mays**

With July Talk Tuesday, March 26 at 8 p.m. Starlite Room (10032 102 St.) \$25 at ticketfly.com

Shoulder-length brown hair, a scruffy beard and guitar in hand characterizes roots rocker Matt Mays. A quintessential hipster at heart, the Maritimes man and his laid-back rock songs always get feet tapping. His latest album *Indio* saw the nomadic man travelling across the world in search of inspiration, from New York to Mexico to Indonesia. Catch the worldweary rocker and his heartfelt, earnest lyrics at the Starlite Room with the gruff and bluesy July Talk of Toronto.



## Celebrating local innovation with the launch of Make Something Edmonton

Local author Todd Babiak looks to highlight the best and brightest ideas in the city

EVENT PREVIEW

#### Make Something Edmonton Launch Event

WHEN > Thursday, March 21 at 5:30 p.m.

WHERE > Avenue Theatre (9030 118 Ave.)

HOW MUCH > Sold Out, livestream online at edmontonjournal.com

**Ryan Stephens** 

ARTS & CULTURE STAFF • @STEPHENSJRYAN

Why do you live in Edmonton?

On the surface, the question may seem simple. When asked, Edmontonians typically give fumbled responses centred around the river valley, the festive and beautiful summer months or the spoils of our booming economy. But Make Something Edmonton founder Todd Babiak argues that we often struggle to dig below the superficial reasons and find the true source of Edmonton pride. After interviewing a diverse array of locals, the answer he gradually found inspired him to create Make Something Edmonton. The campaign is set to officially launch March 21, focusing on putting Edmonton's enterprising and industrious identity into action.

"People kept coming back to this theme that Edmonton is a great place to take an idea to reality, which is entrepreneurship. But also, we do it together," Babiak insists. "There isn't an aristocracy. It's a flat culture. I could phone up the mayor or the CEO of a corporation and pitch my idea."

Edmonton is often criticized for its flatness, both in its boundaries that continue to sprawl outwards onto the prairies as well as its supposedly dead culture compared to larger, more populated cities. But the flatness to which Babiak refers is the tendency for creative Edmontonians to resist searching skyward for the quickest route to notoriety and prestige. Instead, we go for the level-headed, inclusionary route that sees creative endeavours develop from grassroots efforts into something truly memorable.

"What I'd like Edmontonians to ask each other is 'What are you making, and how can I help?' That is, I think, the Edmonton question, or the two Edmonton questions. It's far more powerful than 'Why do you live here?' and certainly more powerful than a slogan. It's an invitation."

TODD BABIAK
MAKE SOMETHING EDMONTON FOUNDER

The launch event will be the first of many that will encourage people to add their own ideas to the pot — or to get on board with somebody else's — while others are invited to simply find out what the project is all about through several short presentations.

Babiak hopes this venture replaces the tired city branding model that depends upon professional advertising schemes to make cities marketable. Despite pouring millions into creating a city's image, the results are often lacklustre because citizens never feel truly involved.

"It's often a very expensive top-down

endeavor, but when it works, it works internally first," he explains. "You get this internal truth, it starts to hum within the city and then your citizens become ambassadors for the idea and it becomes easier for things to launch in Edmonton that feel right."

Eventually, Babiak would like to see a whole new approach to defining Edmonton.

"What I'd like Edmontonians to ask each other is 'What are you making, and how can I help?' That is, I think, the Edmonton question, or the two Edmonton questions," Babiak says. "It's far more powerful than 'Why do you live here?' and certainly more powerful than a slogan. It's an invitation."

Babiak says Make Something Edmonton isn't intended to follow specific rules to achieve any particular goal. He describes the campaign as "open-source" and "grassroots," stressing that there are no limitations to who can use its name or for what. It's simply meant to stimulate a sense of creativity inherent in everybody, regardless of form or intention.

"Whatever it is that they think they can do that's special to make the city more fun, more beautiful, more profitable, greener. We all have our special gifts, so we can just apply them to the city and make it the city we want to live in."

Moving forward, Babiak understands he may not be able to spearhead the project forever. But in whichever form it may take, he hopes the project's heart and soul of limitless creativity and enterprise will be maintained, regardless of what other changes may have to be made.

"Hopefully this thing lasts forever. Once we hand it over to the city or to whoever will take it over ... hopefully they could take that and it'll never change," Babiak says.

"The language may change, but we do think that this is Edmonton's identity, and our job now is to activate it."



SCIENTIFIC ART Engineering Art Show organizers Fraser Mah and Travis Hnidan are at the helm of the exhibit. CHRIS GEF

## Engineers show off their artistic side in annual U of A art exhibit

ART PREVIEW

#### **Engineering** Art Show -**Traces**

WHEN > Runs until Thursday, March 28

WHERE > ETLC and NREF 2nd Floor HOW MUCH > Free

#### **Chris Gee**

ARTS & CULTURE STAFF - @CHRISGGGGGG

Contrary to popular belief, there's more to engineers than calculating thermo-fluid problems and solving for complex control systems. They can also be incredibly imaginative people who create thought-provoking works of art.

For the next week, the engineering buildings on campus will be full of art projects done entirely by engineers. Traces, the second annual Engineering Art Show at the University of Alberta, is showcasing submissions from 35 engineering students, faculty, staff and engineering professionals, displaying the creative pursuits of individuals who aren't usually known for their artistic abilities.

More than 60 pieces are featured in Traces, including video submissions, an origami display, photography, paintings and sculptures. The closing reception on March 28 will also feature spoken-word poetry, a dance group and an aerial acrobatics performance. Event co-coordinator and second-year environmental engineering Masters student Fraser Mah says the goal of Traces is to break the stereotype of the "numbercrunching, anti-social, weird engineer" by exhibiting their artwork in technical aspects of their work. various forms.

"It started out of as a conversation

— looking to find ways to challenge a lot of those stereotypes and to help to build more of a community around artistic work within the engineering side of campus," Mah explains.

" "...An engineer is not just someone who lives in a box full of mathematical equations and chemical reactions. There's so much more that we love to do outside of (engineering) that shows our individuality as people."

> CHRISTINA SMALI ENGINEERING STUDEN

Among the 35 contributing artists is Christina Small, a second-year environmental engineering PhD student who is a returning contributor to the show.

"I think it really showcases the well-roundedness of an engineer. An engineer is not just someone who lives in a box full of mathematical equations and chemical reactions. There's so much more that we love to do outside of (engineering) that shows our individuality as people," she says.

The theme of Traces is loosely basedaround what Mah describes as "those lingering after-effects on your work as an engineer or on your life in general (and) those fingerprints that we leave behind." This idea emphasizes the link between engineering and art and how the artistic side can benefit engineers when it comes to the more

"Engineering and art are not separate. I think that's something that we forget when we say we're engineers and (that) we're one thing," Small says. "The artistry and the creative aspect of our minds also transitions into our engineering solutions. (I like) the diversity of artwork and seeing what people do — their background and research and how they can kind of relate together."

Small's submission is a series of four black and white photographs that link the concepts of environmental consciousness and urban growth together — ideas related to her engineering graduate work in the oil sands.

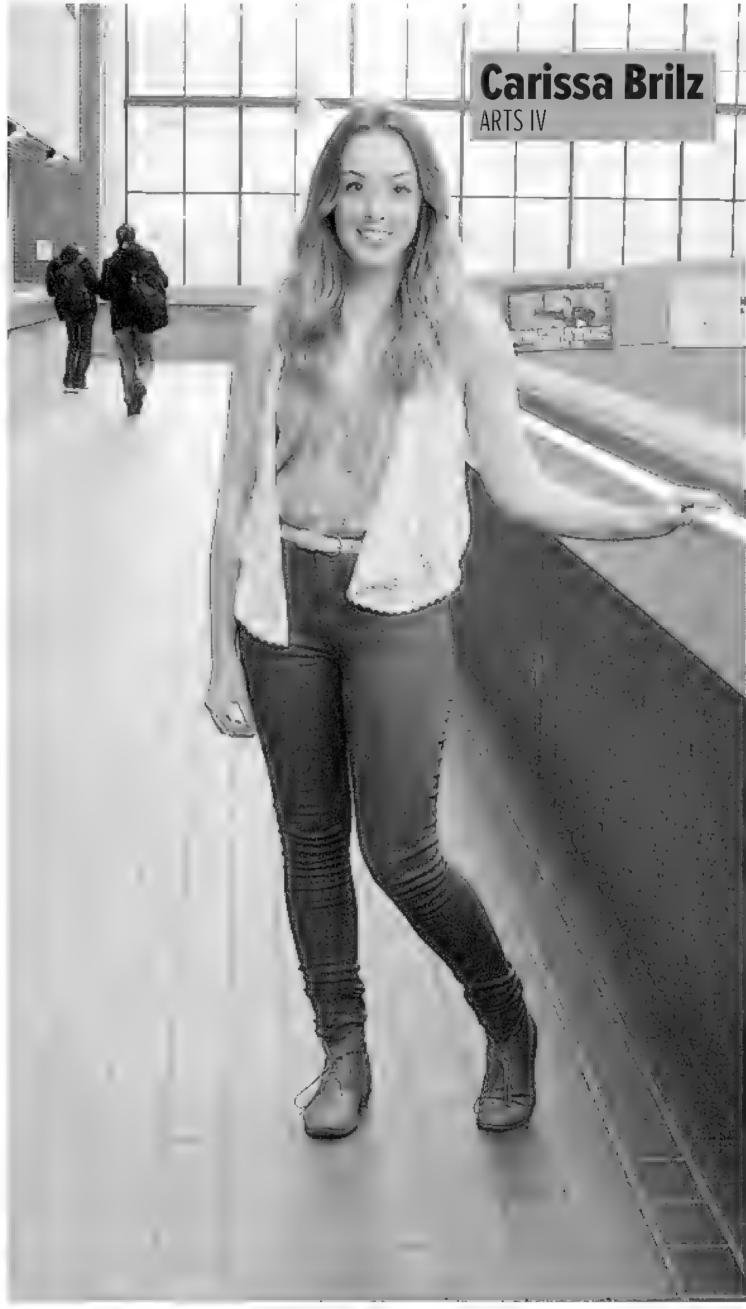
"The idea is as we transform our environment into urban settings or as we transform it into a place where we want to live, sometimes we forget what was before us," Small explains. "It's very important for us to remember the story and remember the setting, our environment — what was there before."

Traces aims to leave a long-term impression on both the engineering and art communities by bringing them together to build relationships that will last after the show is over. To do this, the organizing team is introducing a workshop component led by industry professionals with experience in both disciplines. This part of the show includes a poetry session with award-winning poet and civil engineer Titilope Sonuga and a lecture on creative design with structural engineer Jeff DiBattista.

With these inclusions, Mah hopes that Traces also changes the mindset of the U of A's engineering faculty itself.

"A lot of these stereotypes perpetuate just through undergrad students getting told that this is what an engineer is and getting (stuffed) inside of that box," Mah stresses. "We're trying to break that cycle and be like, 'Well no, you can be whatever you want and do whatever you want.' "





GATEWAY: > Describe what you're wearing. CARISSA: These pants are from Aritzia and I love that they're high-waisted. If I could wear high-waisted (pants) every day, I would. These shoes I got in Australia and they're my favourites. I love that they look a bit worn; I like things that don't look brand new. My accessories are kind of from everywhere, I'm pretty eclectic with them.

GATEWAY: > What's your favourite thing about winter fashion?

CARISSA: > I love big, chunky sweater things that are cozy. In winter, it becomes acceptable to basically just wear a blanket.



Check out thegatewayonline.ca/fashionstreeters for more photos.





## THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC MUSIC AT THE WINSPEAR April 5, at 8:00 p.m. The Indian and West African Music Ensembles with guest artist; Grammy award winner V.M Bhatt. Directors: Sharmila Mathur and Robert Koogo The Francis Winspear Centre for Music, Edmonton Tickets: \$20 Adults | \$15 Seniors | \$10 Studient As this beat the discrimina enline, years must build best use DANGE PRITY OF ALRESTS www.music.ualberta.ca THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC MUSIC AT CONVOCATION HALL **ULTRA** Friday, March 22, 2013 at 8:00 p.m. New compositions by Howard Bashaw, Mark Hannesson, Scott Smallwood and Andriy Taipash. Performed by Roger Admiral, Guillaume Tardif and Joanne Yu. Tickets: \$20 Adults | \$15 Senlors | \$10 Students Convocation Hall (located in the Old Arts Building)

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

www.music.ualberta.ca

## OUTreach Drag Show brings a splash of glamour to Pride Week

THEATRE PREVIEW

#### **OUTreach Drag Show**

WHEN > Friday, March 22 at 7 p.m. WHERE > The Pawn Shop (10551 82 Ave.) HOW MUCH > \$10 at OUTreach (040-B SUB basement)

#### Paige Gorsak

ARTS & CULTURE STAFF - @PAIGEGORSAK

"I'm nervous. I mean, walking in heels is hard. I don't know how people do it!"

Many women can sympathize with this feeling, and after donning a wig and four-inch heels for OUTreach's annual drag show, so will event coorganizer and student performer Eric Sirockman. The annual production, put on by the largest LGBTQ student group on campus, will act as the flamboyant finale to the U of A's first-ever Pride Week.

Pride Week features events from educational talks to entertainment across campus throughout the week, all with the goal of increasing visibility for LGBTQ resources and groups on campus. As a major player in planning the week, OUTreach is focusing on expanding their safe space to encompass more of campus, using events like the drag show to help publicize their presence.

Sirockman, an OUTreach executive who's organizing the drag show this year, says building on Pride Week's momentum was part of his plan to make this year's show bigger and better than ever. As a co-host, he'll not only be dressed in drag for the firsttime, but will also take to the stage as performer Onika Zolanski, doing renditions of Nicki Minaj and Sandy from Grease. He'll be joined by 13 different acts by amateur volunteer Queens performing to music of their choice.

As the pressure and thrill of getting costumes together, choosing music and rehearsing has increased, the stress for Sirockman is winding down now that the final details are locked in place. It's been a lot of work balancing event planning with his typical course



PRIDE POSSE OUTreach organizers guarantee a colourful drag show. ALAMA WILLERTON

load and part-time job, but getting involved with the drag show was something Sirockman knew he wanted to do.

"I jumped at the opportunity to be a part of the drag show," he says. "It's OUTreach's biggest event of the year, and Pride Week this year is huge, so there's lots of pressure and lots of stress, but I've had a great group of people volunteer and a lot of support from the community."

#### "It's all a part of (OUTreach) trying to be more visible out there in the community."

ERIC SIROCKMAN OUTREACH DRAG SHOW CO-ORGANIZER

Assistance from the community was a major factor in making the drag show a reality. The Pawn Shop offered OUTreach not only the space to perform, but free lighting, music and tech for the event, as well as the opportunity to keep all their profits.

"It's great because we get to give visibility to LGBTQ-friendly businesses like the Pawn Shop," Sirockman says. "I've actually been very surprised at how generous people have been, and it's been comforting to know that people are here to support the LGBTQ community wherever they can."

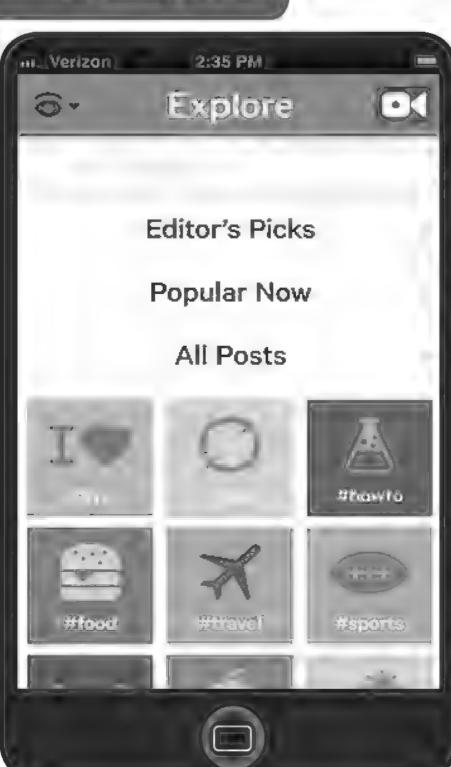
Alongside the Whyte Avenue music venue, community members who've supported the event include businesses like the Travelling Tickle Trunk, who Sirockman explains have donated prizes every year. The U of A's bookstore offered up what Sirockman calls a "practical prize" of a gift card to the winning student, while Buddy's, a local LGBTQ nightclub, is hosting the after-party with reduced cover for those who bring their drag show ticket stubs.

With the ultimate goal of creating a sense of community on campus for LGBTQ students, an event like the drag show offers a fun way to get introduced to the OUTreach student group. Sirockman hopes that by creating visibility, more students will feel comfortable approaching their office in the basement of SUB, and will in turn have more support as LGBTQ students.

"It's all a part of us trying to be more visible out there in the community," he explains. "We want to let LGBTQ students, who aren't necessarily part of the U of A or even part of an academic institution, know that they're able to come to our meetings and to feel safe and have someone to relate to.

"And the drag show is just a lot of fun. It's fun to go over the top and be overdramatic, and it's neat to break those gender barriers."







#### Vine

COST > Free

PLATFORM iPhone, iPad and iPod Touch

The latest addition to every social media guru's arsenal, Vine is an app that allows users to record six-second videos that play on a continual loop. Essentially an Instagram video, Vine has exploded in the social media world as a new way to convey messages in a short but entertaining way.

Brought to us by the same people who created Twitter, the app has limitless possibilities. From something as random as a video of going

through the steps of putting together a sandwich or finding a creative way to drum up hype around your brand or name via video, Vine puts some of the innovation back into social media.

The app is also simple to operate: just press your finger to the phone screen to record and lift to stop. You can put together as many video clips as will fit in six seconds, and the result is often an eclectically charming video you'll want to watch over and over again. Fortunately, with Vine's continual loop element and the short nature of the video, doing that is incredibly easy.

If you're looking to spice up your social media world, look no further than the Vine app. It may be the latest thing, but like Twitter, it'll be sticking around for a long time.

Dat app is a weekly feature that highlights the best apps out there.

## Born Ruffians come out on top after years of music

#### MUSIC PREVIEW

#### **Born Ruffians**

WITH > The Elwins

WHEN > Saturday, March 23 at 8 p.m. WHERE > Avenue Theatre

(9030 118 Ave.)

HOW MUCH \$15 at yeglive.ca or Blackbyrd Myoozik

#### Chris Gee

ARTS & CULTURE STAFF = @CHRISGGGGGG

Once upon a time, Born Ruffians were a bunch of skinny, awkward-looking guys that played quirky, loose rock songs for whoever was listening.

"You know when you're at a show and the band you really like is about to come on? You're just like 'Yeah! I'm fucking pumped!' So when (we're) backstage and feeling that from (the crowd) — that's the best moment."

LUKE LALONDE SINGER/GUITARIST, BORN RUFFIANS

But over the years, the Toronto-based group fronted by singer and guitarist Luke Lalonde has transitioned from an obscure group to a carefree party band with the completion of their highly-anticipated first full-length album, *Red*, *Yellow & Blue*, in 2008.



where it goes."

Thankfully, before their debut al-

bum was even released, the group

was quickly being booked as open-

ers for more established bands such

as Hot Chip, Caribou and the Hid-

den Cameras. Their early travels as

weary teenagers even took them to

the University of Alberta campus

at the Powerplant, now known as

"I guess that was seven years ago

— holy shit!" Lalonde recalls. "My

memories of that tour and of that

time are not really knowing what

was going on and just maybe being

"I think then it was us still riding

this rocket being like, 'Okay, we're

just going to hold on to this and see

kind of a shithead sometimes.

Dewey's.

Fast-forward to 2013, and the energetic group has safely landed and remain firmly planted in the Canadian music scene. Nowadays, Lalonde says the band has "mellowed out," but is more eager than ever to play in front of their fans.

"It's still a joy to tour; we're still excited to do all that stuff. We haven't become jaded about anything," he says. "In fact, I think it's become more fun. I think I was kind of miserable in a lot of those early tours."

The band's passion for including everyone from their diverse fanbase drives them to try to make as many of their shows as possible all-ages.

Once playing as underage minors themselves, accommodating their younger audience is something Born Ruffians take pride in as a clear acknowledgment their roots.

"In the U.S., the drinking age is 21, which is ridiculous. It's like, if you're 20 years old, you're an adult, but you can't come in to see a rock show? That's fucking stupid," Lalonde laughs. "We know there are a lot of fans that are under 21, and it just makes it more fun for us and it's just a better show."

Now set to unveil their more polished third album *Birthmarks*, Born Ruffians haven't changed their output of hyper, ever-youthful pop-rock over the years. Lalonde's

penchant for split-decision, spastic guitar bursts pairs well with the band's equally nervous basslines and tangly drumming.

But the most prominent feature of Born Ruffians' fast-paced, impromptu music is Lalonde's knack for melody and his cartoon-like singing style. His vocals range from high-pitched, spritely howls to smooth, R&B-styled heart-warming croons — both of which make up a part of Born Ruffians' signature sound. The band originally auditioned for vocalists before Lalonde reluctantly took the role and eventually found his distinctive voice naturally by "imitating different people" like David Byrne and "maybe a bit of Cyndi Lauper in there too."

Since the days of the band collectively finding their jumpy sound, Born Ruffians has developed a large and enthusiastic following who have attached themselves to the band's spirited take on pop music. The rowdiness at their shows is something the trio craves, and in turn, they transform that energy into their performances.

"I know a lot of people are like, 'I like playing small sweaty rooms.' That's fun, but nothing really compares to when we're playing the peak-size venue that we can play. And it's a sold-out show right before you go on, and the crowd is really energetic. And there are a lot of them," Lalonde says.

"You know when you're at a show and the band you really like is about to come on? You're just like, 'Yeah! I'm fucking pumped!' So when (we're) backstage and feeling that from (the crowd) — that's the best moment."





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## Music industry finally on the rise after 14-year slump



**Ryan Stephens A&C COMMENTARY** 

Fourteen years ago, the booming music industry hit a thick fog, leaving it adrift as dollars disappeared from even the most influential record labels. Though many thought Napster's 1999 debut would signal the commercial downfall of the industry, music thrived despite it, expanding and evolving to the benefit of artists worldwide. As a result, the cash-draining fog is finally lifting, revenues are up and the music industry is once again headed for growth.

According to a recent report by the International Federation of the Phonographic Industry, 2012 saw the worldwide music industry grow for the first time since 1999, with a 0.3 per cent growth in global revenues. While such an increase may seem insignificant, it's emblematic of a rejuvenated respect for music that many criticize the current generation as lacking.

However, a lack of respect for the music industry is what led to fans so easily jumping on the pirate ship in the first place. By the late '90s, albums such as the Spice Girls' Spice and the Backstreet Boys' Millennium topped the charts, both indicating the keys to high sales were perfectly manufactured lineups and strategic advertising. Though the talent of these groups shouldn't be understated, the majority of the profits from their successes went straight to the masterminds behind the scenes. Manipulative commercialization was at the forefront of the industry rather than the music itself. And because raw talent was no longer the measurement for success, the music industry would face increasingly disenchanted consumers.

Since the collapse, the public has significantly changed how they consume music, simultaneously pressing into the digital



DAN MCKECHNIE

future while jumping into the retro past. Digital downloads increasingly outsell physical media, with digital revenues up nine per cent in 2012. The growing speed and ease with which music can be bought online will likely ensure that compact disks and vinyl will never catch up. Nevertheless, vinyl has made a noticeable resurgence of late, with sales booming every year and many opting to pay much more for the prestige and art of the physical form that was once thought to be completely obsolete. With the majority of vinyl purchased at independent record stores, chains like HMV are rushing to cash in on the trend.

Regardless of the form, the best-selling albums are being purchased legally and in higher quantities than in years past. Adele's 21 has been atop the charts for two years, with combined sales of more than 10 million copies. Just when selling three to five million albums was becoming the norm a decade ago, Adele proves that immense talent will still bring in sales.

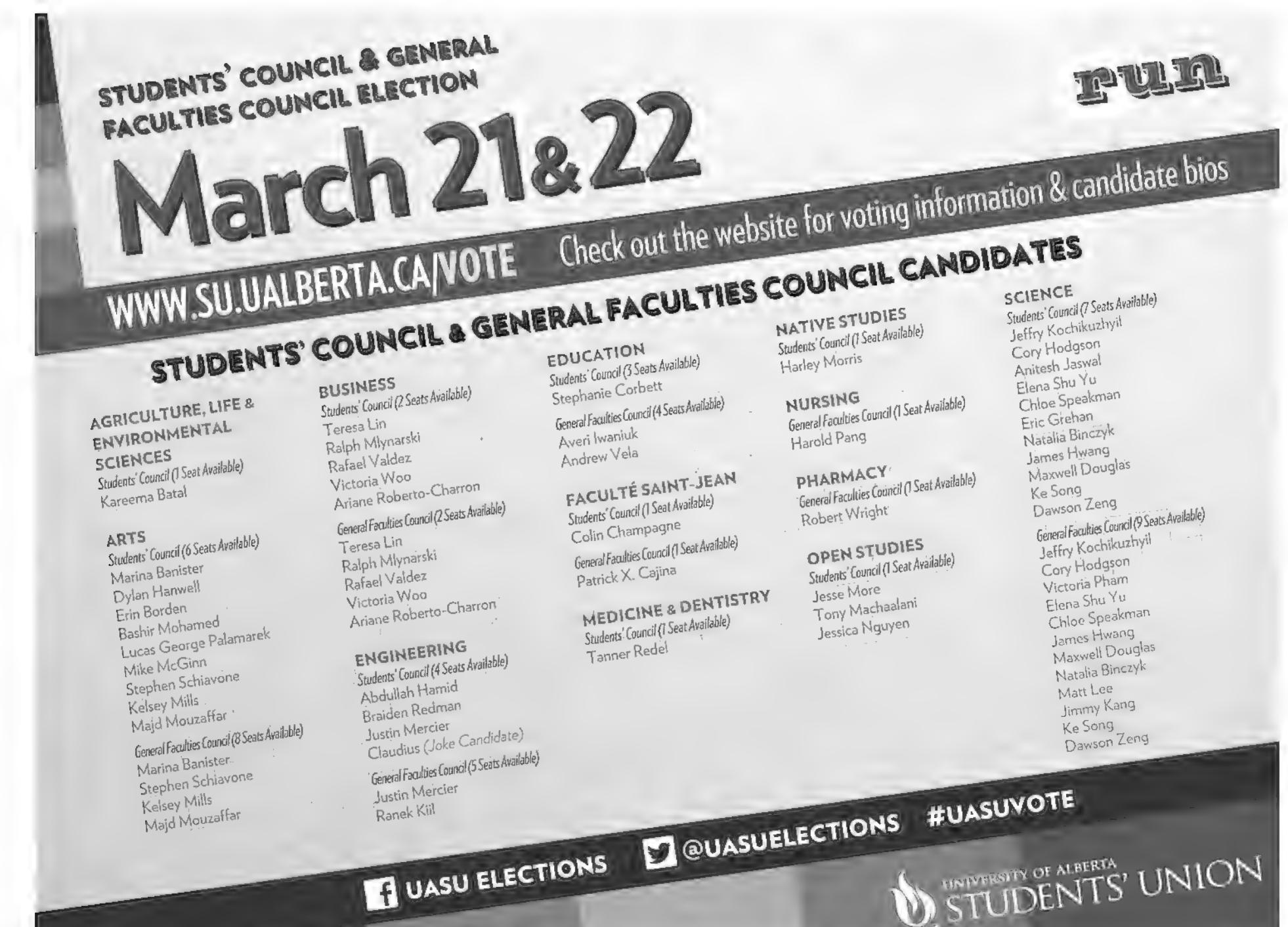
Since the (music industry's) collapse, the public has significantly changed how they consume music, simultaneously pressing into the digital future while jumping into the retro past.

But the most powerful indicator of a renewed respect for music stems from the unprecedented ubiquity of music festivals. Prior to Napster, only a handful of enormous music festivals gained steam around the world, and

many of them struggled financially despite bringing in the biggest musicians of the day. Now, new music festivals sprout up from nowhere every year, and the ease with which they sell out comes not from massive headliners, but their ability to fill lineups with a diverse array of artists of lesser fame.

Whereas the '90s saw the music industry controlled by cunning record executives, music today is healthier, more diverse and led from below. Thanks to the internet, music fans set the trends, giving underground artists the exposure they need and forcing the business to follow suit.

While many decry today's music fans as entitled, the truth is that an industry built on exclusivity and pure profit motive was destined to crumble, and music is now back on track as an increasingly creative and profitable profession.



### brewsbrothers

WENTEN BY Adrian Lahota-Chomiak and Sen-Rourrie

#### Saison De La Ceinture Fléchée

**Brewery:** Half Pints

**Available at:** Sherbrooke Liquor store (11819 St. Albert Trail)

Saisons are a kind of beer that's difficult to describe with words. They're fruity, yeasty and have bright flavours that work together in an interesting way. For those who have tasted this delectable style, it's hard not to go searching for more. This week, I tried out Half Pints Saison De La Ceinture Fléchée to see if it satisfied that craving.

The beer pours a hazy golden colour with a generous three fingers of foamy off-white head that has decent retention. On the nose, there's a spicy clove kick with a bit of a ripe banana-like smell behind it and backed by some saison ester character that comes out more as the beer warms up. De La Ceinture Fléchée delivers on the aroma withthathard-to-defineyeasty saison smell that makes these beers such a treat.

In terms of flavour, there's a bright, yeasty effervescence, which fades to some spicy hop character and malty sweetness. Saison yeast funk is here in full force, balanced nicely against the spicy hops, which cut through the beer and balance the profile well. The mouth feel is light, as expected, with nice bright carbonation to complement the flavours and keep the beer light and refreshing.

Saison De La Ceinture Fléchée is an excellent beer for anyone looking for a solid example of the style. It has a good amount of yeast character, but not so much as to overwhelm the palate. I recommend it to anyone looking for a solid, easy-to-love beer and give it an 8/10.

#### **Hop Head IPA**

**Brewery:** Tree Brewing

MANUED EDITION

HITTERES - AN PRESERVABIL

Brenst in Kelense BC

String Alo - Alo Form C4% alc: (voj. 650 m)

**Available at:** Sherbrooke Liquor store (11819 St. Albert Trail) and most liquor stores

Tree Brewing Brewery out of Kelowna is, like many quality Canadian breweries, vastly underrated and overlooked by serious beer geeks. That said, in my experience, they consistently produce quality beer and deserve a lot more respect than they get. I thought I would give their IPA a try to see how it stacks up to the vast offerings in

The beer pours a pale copper colour with about a finger of white head that leaves behind some decent lacing. The aroma is full of piney citrus hops, as well as some decent tropical fruit notes and a near-perfect amount of caramel maltiness. This is a textbook dry west coast IPA, with a light bitterness and piney hops

coast IPA, with a light bitterness and piney hops up front that are thankfully not overly powerful. This is followed by citrus, tropical fruit and caramel malt flavours that make the mouth water before the beer dries out with a lingering bitterness at the end.

The body and carbonation are both medium and help scrub the palate, making this a solid beer to pair with foods like oily seafood.

Overall, this is a solid brew I would recommend to both new initiates of the beer world and seasoned hopheads alike. This beer can be sipped and contemplated or drank as a refreshing cold one on a nice spring day, and deserves an 8/10.



The next Bachelorette: Desiree Hartsock



After a disppointing choice in Sean Lowe as last season's man of choice on *The Bachelor*, the franchise has redeemed itself by choosing Desiree Hartsock as the next bachelorette.

In keeping with the tradition of recent seasons, Hartsock was a contestant on Lowe's season of *The Bachelor*, coming in fourth place despite a seemingly strong bond between the couple. But where Lowe was perfectly boring and brawny, Hartsock will bring some much-needed heart to the show. She's the best bachelorette in recent memory, easily beating out the last one, Emily Maynard. Where Maynard was overly emotional and whiny, Hartsock seems genuinely sweet and eager, and will breathe new life into *The Bachelorette* as it enters its ninth season.

It's fairly safe to say Hartsock dodged a bullet when Lowe decided not to give her a rose last month, as she's far more interesting and complex than Ken the Barbie doll — I mean, Lowe. And if you're not convinced of that, look no further than the fact that Lowe is now a contestant on *Dancing With the Stars*. There are few things that signal desperateness like *DWTS*, making Lowe's appearance on it hardly surprising.

As an avid *Bachelor* and *Bachelorette* fan, it seems obvious that Hartsock can do far better than Lowe, and her journey on this season of *The Bachelorette* will be one viewers can watch with happy anticipation.

The Finer Things is a semi-regular feature in which Gateway pop culture pundits point to a particularly relevant or pretentious example of art celebrating it for all of its subjective merit.



"Where the hell is the bow tie, man? That's like me without alcohol."

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## Bears come up short despite strong century campaign

#### HOCKEY ROUNDUP

#### **Cameron Lewis**

SPORTS STAFF • @COOOM

They won their final game of the 2012-13 season, but the top-ranked University of Alberta Golden Bears hockey team came up just three goals short of a berth in the CIS University Cup finals last weekend.

The tournament, hosted by the University of Saskatchewan, saw the two Atlantic representatives from the University of New Brunswick and Saint Mary's University meet in the cup finals. The UNB Varsity Reds shut out the SMU Huskies 2–0 in the final game for the team's fourth cup championship in six years.

"You always want to win the last game of the season. Usually, winning the last game of the year makes you the champion, but unfortunately, in this case it didn't," Bears coach Ian Herbers said. "I think we did a lot of good things and opened up some eyes around the country with our work ethic and the style we play.

"In the long run, it was probably better that we lost this one. It's going to make us a better team and a better program in the future. We know we have some work ahead of us."

The Bears got trapped in second place in pool A behind St. Mary's after the first tie breaker of goal differential ended up in SMU's favour. Through the round robin, the Bears, Waterloo Warriors and Huskies were tied with identical 1–1 records, but the Huskies had the best goal differential of the group at +3. The Huskies defeated the Warriors 5–1 on Saturday in the final game of the round robin phase. This ultimately gave SMU the

positive goal differential they needed to get through.

"The goal differential came back to hurt us. That's just the way the tournament is," Herbers said. "We weren't able to create a big enough lead — no excuses. We just didn't find a way to get through to the finals."

The Bears followed up a shocking 2–1 defeat at the hands of the sixthranked Warriors with an overtime victory against the Huskies one day later. Unfortunately, a 4-3 victory over the Huskies from the AUS conference wasn't enough to move the Golden Bears to the University Cup finals.

"We came out and we did a lot of very good things," Herbers said of the game against Waterloo. "We hit six posts, including one with one second to go, and if we had taken that game to overtime ... it would have been a different story."

Despite coming home emptyhanded, Herbers was still happy with his team's performance.

"Going into that St. Mary's game after losing to a team we shouldn't have lost to, we came out flying but found ourselves down 3-2," Herbers said. "(We) didn't quit and chipped our way back and took it in overtime."

Bears captain Greg Gardner and goalie Real Cyr played their final games as Golden Bears last Friday, finishing two very successful careers with the team. Gardner ended his CIS career by picking up an assist on the tying goal Johnny Lazo scored in the third period that forced the game against SMU into overtime, while Cyr came into the game in relief of starter Kurtis Mu-

cha, stopping all 10 shots he faced. "We knew that we had to win the



HARRY DU

game to even give us a slim chance to play in the finals on Sunday," Gardner said of the game that ended up being his last with the Bears. "If we would have lost that game, our tournament would have ended right there."

Herbers had nothing but positive things to say about the performance on and off the ice of his two graduating players.

"A lot of Gardner's work came off the ice and in the dressing room. Come playoff time, he elevated his

game and showed true fifth-year Bear qualities," Herbers said.

"Same with Cyr. It wasn't the year he had the year before and it easily could have been a situation where he could have been negative. But he kept his nose to the grindstone with a positive, team-first attitude, and got a chance to play in the last game of the year."

Despite not winning nationals, the Golden Bears had an excellent season, finishing with a 23-4-1 record in the Canada West conference

and a 39–5–2 record overall, ending with the number-one ranking in CIS men's hockey.

"I think we had an excellent season. Obviously, not reaching our ultimate goal of being national champions was disappointing, but as a team we are proud of what we accomplished." Gardner said.

"We were ranked third in Can West at the beginning of the season, and to finish where we did was a great accomplishment. This team has a bright future."

### Hoop dreams not extinct for fifth-year Panda players after CIS careers



#### BASKETBALL PROFILE

#### **Andrew Jeffrey**

SPORTS EDITOR • @ANDREW\_JEFFREY

Looking back on the U of A Pandas' performance through the first half of the season, it's no surprise the team didn't qualify for this year's women's national championships. But a late season run brought the team close to that goal, ending the fifth-year players' careers on a high note.

Despite not making it to the national championships, the Pandas rebounded from an 8-8 record at the start of 2013 to win their final six games of the season, entering playoffs at 14–8.

"I just think at the beginning of the season, it was a lot of new players and getting used to the chemistry," fifth-year Pandas guard Katie Arbuthnot said.

"It really started in practice. There was just a noticeable energy to the court. People were a little more committed and vocal, and we got really competitive in practice."

Along with fifth-year forward Anneka Bakker, the Pandas' seniors stepped up as leaders to help improve their team's fortunes when the Pandas needed them most.

"There's been lots of girls I've seen that have quit, and very few that played for all five years," Arbuthnot

noted. "More than anything, I think I'm proud of my character for being able to make it through five years. It's not easy at all."

Their final game of the playoffs was understandably emotional for both Bakker and Arbuthnot. As the game entered its final minutes and the lead got further away, the senior players began to realize this would be the last game of their CIS careers.

left or so and was distraught on the bench," Bakker said. "You realize this is the last time you'll be wearing this jersey, the last time you'll be playing this game, on this bench, with this team, with these coaches. That's been such a key part of our lives and so central to who we are and our identity."

For Arbuthnot, it was also a rewarding experience, ending her season in her hometown of Calgary with her friends and family there to watch her complete her CIS career. Moving forward, as an education student, she sees a future in coaching in some capacity.

"I have 15 years of pent-up knowledge about basketball that I feel I should do something with now," she said.

Meanwhile, Bakker is unsure of where her future in basketball lies. While she and Arbuthnot will still be involved with the Pandas as alumni

and may start refereeing games, she also dreams of continuing her playing career and achieving a lifelong goal of playing basketball in Europe. Finding a country to play in, however, has become more difficult since she began her CIS career five years ago.

"I've had a couple of friends go over to Greece and Spain, and my friend in Greece actually wasn't paid for about three months, so it's definitely a little "I got fouled out with two minutes riskier," Bakker said about the countries she was considering. "If I was looking at this six or seven years ago, there would definitely be a lot more options; the salary would be considerably higher. But with the current situation, I'm probably going to strike out to the northern countries, if at all."

For now, the playing careers of these two seniors are over. While their final two games in CIS were losses, a surprising late season eight-game winning streak to cap off a five-year career was all part of a rewarding experience for both Bakker and Arbuthnot.

"(I learned) how to be a teammate, how to follow, how to lead, how to sacrifice and how to go through struggle and be successful at the same time," Bakker said.

"Sometimes I would be counting down the minutes until practice is over, and sometimes it would fly by and I would want to do it all over again. It's been awesome."

## U of A curlers favourites to bring home CIS gold medals

## CURLING PREVIEW CIS Championship

Wednesday, March 20 - Sunday, March 24 Thompson Rivers University, Kamloops

#### **Andrew Jeffrey**

SPORTS EDITOR • @ANDREW\_JEFFREY

With western regional championship victories backing up both the Golden Bears and Pandas curling teams heading to nationals this weekend, one is entering as a surprisingly upstart young team while the other comes in as the defending champions.

The Golden Bears curling team is led by third-year skip Brendan Bottcher, who has only padded his resumé since winning the national championship a year ago. Along with being a 2012 CIS champion, Bottcher is also the 2012 Canadian and World Juniors gold medalist. The team he leads is largely the same one that took home a national championship one year ago.

"The main advantage our Bears team has is they are essentially the same team that goes out and plays on the world curling tour together," U of A curling head coach Rob Krepps said.

"They would be likely more prepared in a competitive environment than any of the other teams that we'll play at nationals. This is really their main team that they play with all year, not just at the U of A, but on tour."

Meanwhile, the Pandas are led by rookie skip Kelsey Rocque. The Pandas curling team has had a surprising amount of success given Rocque's age, winning the Western Canadian University championships along with the Bears a month ago.

"They're likely the youngest team at nationals, but managed to win the western regional a couple weeks back, and we feel really optimistic about their chances as well," Krepps said about the Pandas.

"I think if everything went perfectly, we would have our opportunity to

win two national championships."

Rocque may be entering the tournament as a rookie skip, but her team is bolstered with the experience of fifth-year Erica Ortt and third-year Alison Kotylak. They've mentored Rocque throughout the season, helping her improve her curling and maintain confidence.

"I'm the youngest player on the team, and it's tough being the skip and calling the game and calling the shots, but they're really supportive and they help me a lot," Rocque said.

They'll be challenged by the University of Manitoba, who came in as runners-up at the western championships this year. Manitoba also boasts a strong men's team that will challenge the Bears, along with Waterloo, who lost the national championship game to the U of A last year. It will be a challenge for the Bears to go into nationals against teams they haven't curled against this year, but Krepps takes this as just part of the game.

"What we try to do is to prepare



KEVIN SCHENK

our teams to play our way the best that they possibly can and to not worry about the way our opponents play," Krepps said.

"There certainly are some things

you might do to take advantage of a weakness in an opposing player, but it's not a huge part of the game. It's much more important that we play our way and do it really well."

## University athletes campaign against homophobia in the locker room

#### **Robert Murray**

THE ARGOSY (MOUNT ALLISON UNIVERSITY)

SACKVILLE (CUP) — Competing on the ice, field or hardcourt is supposed to serve as a medium in which humans can be careless, free and at peace. For some gay athletes, it can feel more like a prison.

Nothing is more important in competition than getting the win and basking in glory. But for decades, gay athletes have been held back by what You Can Play co-founder Brian Kitts calls "casual homophobia." You Can Play is a project with the goal to rid sports of homophobia. After campaigns to rid the locker room of racist and sexist behavior, homophobia has been thrust in the spotlight as the next target.

The effort to end homophobia in the locker room has been a hot-button issue from the big leagues to local arenas for a significant portion of the last half-century. And Kitts hopes the organization he helped start will be able to make a difference.

Kitts co-founded You Can Play with Patrick Burke and Glenn Witman in March 2012 as a tribute to Burke's brother Brendan, who came out in November 2009 and worked to eradicate homophobia in professional sports before he died in a car crash in February 2010. At the time, Brendan was the student-manager at Miami University for the men's hockey team.

Despite the gains made in recent years with athletes, executives, journalists and teams coming together to stand against homophobia, one Mount Allison athlete still thinks total acceptance of gay athletes is unbalanced.

"I think that in general it's more accepted among women to have gay teammates than men," said the athlete, who wished to remain anonymous.

This was reflected in the comments from fourth-year Mt. Allison Mounties hockey forward Chelsea King, who's adamant that homophobia shouldn't be tolerated in any sport.

"We're all the same. Nobody should be judged or made fun of because of their sexual preference," she said.

However, the campaign to end homophobia in the locker room also faces roadblocks. Locker room decisions and the events that transpire there are usually restricted to athletes and team personnel. This puts most of the decision to take a stand on the shoulders of the athletes and

team

"Humans by nature value fairness," said Kitts. "It's a matter of giving them the opportunity to get on board with this."

Since their founding almost a year ago, You Can Play has joined forces with several prominent schools, teams and athletes, all pledging to take a stand to end homophobia. The St. Thomas University Tommies, the University of New Brunswick Varsity Reds, the University of Ottawa GeeGees and the Ontario Intercollegiate Fastpitch Association have all taken a stand at the Canadian university level.

But the battle is still a long way from being over. Kitts noted the importance of not only forming an alliance of gay athletes, but partneringwith straight athletes as well.

"We're going to grow out of (casual

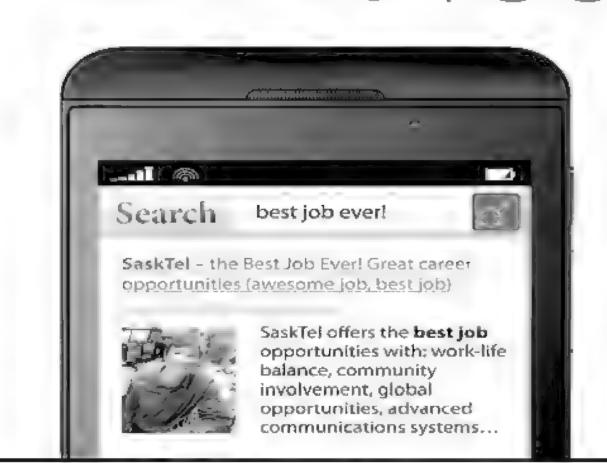
homophobia)," he said.

Kitts hopes homophobia can be targeted in a similar way to racism and sexism, though he admitted change will not come overnight. He referred to several decades ago when it would have been considered acceptable to some degree to use derogatory language towards athletes of different races or gender. This isn't the case now, demonstrating how the world of sport has made strides towards a more open atmosphere.

Kitts is firmly focused on doing the same work with homophobia. For now, he and his team work day in and day out to ensure that athletic ability is the only determining factor for success in sports, from the bright lights of the world's biggest athletic events to minor hockey games at the local arena.



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## Football coach recruiting to help set team's foundation

#### FOOTBALL ROUNDILLE

#### **Andrew Jeffrey**

SPORTS EDITOR • @ANDREW\_JEFFREY

When Chris Morris was hired as the Golden Bears football team's new head coach in December, it didn't take long for him to start talking to potential Bears recruits.

"(I started) that very day," he said. "The very day I was hired, I called about 10 guys in the city who were top recruits. Within the week, I'd signed five or six."

Morris has been in talks with up to 50 players who are coming to the Golden Bears camp, and even more Grade 10 and 11 students in high school thinking of coming to the U of A in the future.

"Recruiting is the biggest part of this whole thing," Morris said. "It was a two-headed approach that we took. We knew that we needed to work with players to ensure that our culture was rock-solid hard, it was a competitive environment where people were going to work as hard as they possibly could, and whatever talent we had would reach its potential.

However, the team recruiting these students hasn't won a game in two seasons. Morris is already working to reverse that trend in the U of A's players by testing the Bears' resilience, putting them through regular early morning training four days a week in order to create a structure for the team's training regimen while improving the players' mental and physical strength. The idea is to put the Bears through more demanding training than their opponents to better prepare them for competition.

"You start looking at what we're

going to do from a resiliency standpoint: what are we going to do when things don't go well?" Morris said. "Because football's one of those games where there's always going to be things that are going well, and there's going to be times in games where things start to go south. It's the teams that are able to moderate those experiences and it's the teams that are able to fight through those low times and not get derailed and then fight back — those are the sort of teams that win.

"They're mentally tough, resilient teams. That more than anything else, when you haven't won for a while and when you have that experience of loss, those things stick in your psyche as a player. So we have to make sure that the things we do and the approach we take is highly competitive, but it's also one that builds some resiliency in the guys. That's the process we're going in."

To build the base of the Bears' foundation, Morris is focusing on making sure he attracts the best football recruits playing in the Edmonton area. The academic standing and on-field skill of U of A players are always vital qualities Morris looks at when he brings in recruits for the U of A, but the most crucial intangible for the coach in rebuilding the U of A's team is the character of individual players.

"Can you count on them, are they going to be there for their teammates, are they going to give you everything they have when they compete? And that's sometimes hard to tell," Morris said. "You can measure somebody's (40-metre dash), you can measure somebody's strength, you can do all those things ... We're building a foundation here, and you

want to build it around guys with really solid character."

More specifically, the team Morris inherited "left the cupboards bare," with fewer players on the roster than usual for a CIS team. On top of that, Morris has had to look at bringing in more offensive line players to a team that featured almost as many quarterbacks as offensive linemen.

Despite the team's poor record, Morris brings in recruits by talking about the strenuous training he promotes to help players reach their full potential. Recruits are also attracted to the prospect of the opportunity

to create a new foundation for the U of A team as they progress as a unit over their CIS careers playing for the U of A.

"A lot of the places that are competing with us for recruits already have programs that are well-established, and they're just putting pieces in to see if they can put the final touches on it," Morris said.

"I talk to (recruits) about the fact that this is a unique opportunity for guys to come in and grow up together as a unit, and three or four years from now, take the field as a unified group and see what they can do together and see what the program they helped build can do on a national stage against some of the top programs in the country.

"That, for them, is one of the big selling points: they want to be part of building something special, they look at the people we've assembled and I think they can sense that it is going to be something special."

As Morris works to change the losing culture that's grown around the Bears team over the past two seasons, what he's assembling now is a potentially more disciplined team that could exceed all expectations.



STARTING FROM THE BOTTOM After two winless seasons, the Bears will have a long ways to go to be a playoff team again DANIFLLE JENSON

## Stand up against cuts to your education!

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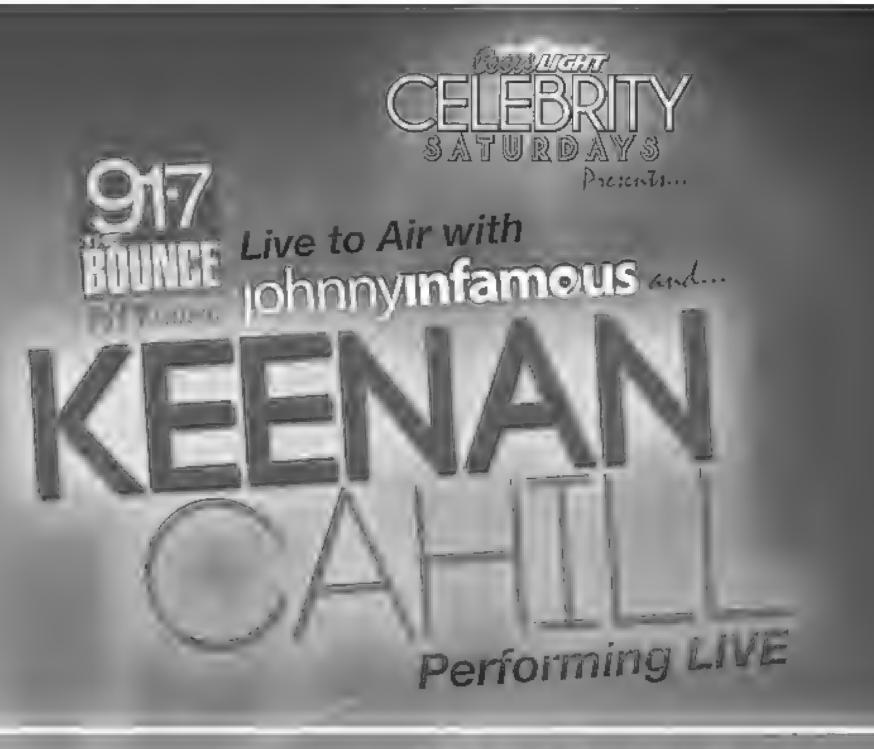
Less funding for post-secondaries in the budget puts pressure on institutions to raise tuition, making university more expensive.

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## Should visors be optional or mandatory for NHL players?

NHL veterans have right to make decision on visor for themselves



Cameron Lewis POINT

With the recent freak injury to New York Rangers defenceman Marc Staal, the oftasked question of whether visors should be mandatory in the NHL is alive again.

Player safety has been a primary focus of the NHL and the NHL Players' Association, with the study of concussions and their permanent effects gaining steam all around the sporting world. There's no doubt players should wear visors. Seeing the injuries around the league, they'd be stupid not to. But the NHL doesn't have the right to force a current player to make the change to wearing a visor.

The NHLPA are a stubborn bunch — the last player to play without a helmet retired in 1997

— and they simply don't want to be told how to play the game, let alone what equipment to wear. The NHL can make recommendations to players and tell them anything they want, but a player who's worn a visor-less helmet all their life will be opposed to the idea of making a change, and I don't blame them.

Although a player is putting themselves at the risk of suffering an injury by not wearing a visor, as long as they aren't putting another

Interfaith@shaw.ca

player at risk, they have that right. Wearing plastic covers around your skate can reduce the possibility of suffering a foot injury, but do players have to wear them?

There are tons of pieces of equipment out there that can reduce the potential for injuries, but ultimately, it's up to the player to decide what to wear. If they aren't familiar with a particular piece of equipment and have played their entire career without it, why would they want to make that change?

The key to solving the visor issue is in the seeds of junior hockey. Players in junior hockey, by rule, must wear a visored helmet. This is something all players in the upcoming generation are used to, so when they make it to the NHL, the idea of wearing a visor won't even be questioned.

In a sport like hockey with pucks, stick blades and skate blades flying around, it's certainly advantageous to wear a visor. But for a player who's hasn't ever worn a visor in his entire hockey career, the idea of suddenly putting one on is almost out of the question.

Similar to what the NHL did with helmets, they should implement a grandfather clause that allows current players to make the choice as to whether they want to wear visors, but make them mandatory for new players entering the league.

After all, it quickly became unthinkable for goalie masks and helmets to be required without any action being taken by the NHL to make these things mandatory.

Dangerous injuries necessitate mandatory visors for all NHL players



Atta Almasi COUNTERPOINT

In the final season of an illustrious career that spanned two decades and saw him achieve numerous accolades and awards, the thenlongest serving captain of the Detroit Red Wings faced the cameras and made what was perhaps one of the boldest statements concerning visors in the NHL.

After a rough and tumble second round playoff matchup with the Calgary Flames, Wings captain Steve Yzerman emerged with a bloodied left eye and a different opinion on visors after a puck deflected in his face.

"Guys should be wearing them," he said.

Although it's been almost a decade since Yzerman helped sound the alarm on the dangers of electing not to wear eye protection after a devastating injury of his own, it's remarkable that the NHL and the NHLPA continue to have this conversation, wrestling over whether the use of visors should be made mandatory across the league.

After visorless Rangers defenceman Marc Staal took a puck near the eye a few weeks ago in a game against the Flyers, the old, all-too-familiar debate over compulsory visors has returned to locker rooms. sports talk radio,

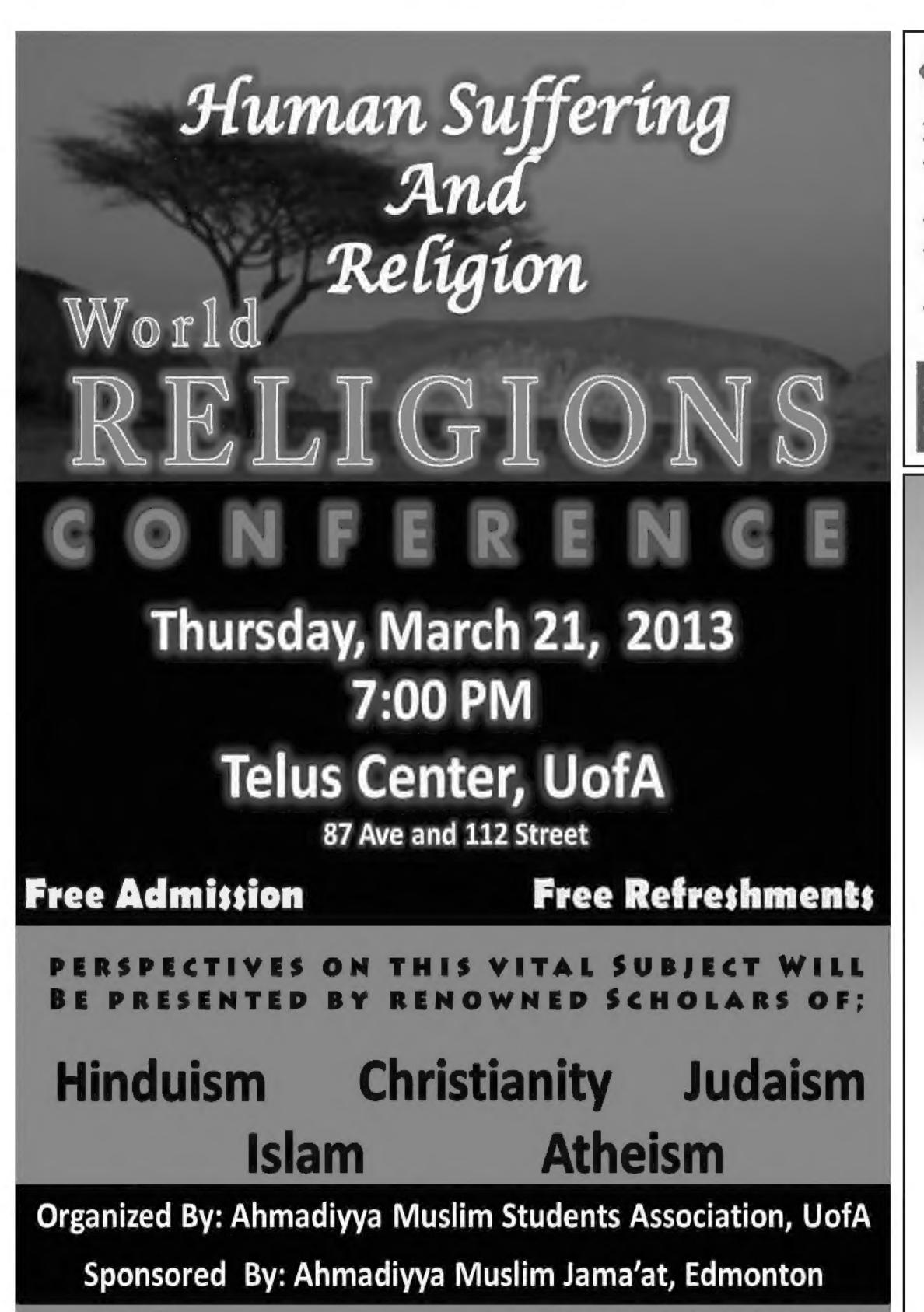
and the water cooler — with almost anyone and everyone having a different opinion on the issue.

Don Cherry, who once got into hot water for infamously suggesting that "most of the guys that wear (visors) are European or French guys," realizes that visors "will be made mandatory (since) you cannot have half the league (wearing) them and (the other half) not."

Besides the logistical problems of not having uniform equipment requirements across the league, the other issue at play is the monetary and corporate side of things and the increasingly valuable financial assets that modern-day NHL players have become.

With larger and more long-term contracts being handed out to star players across the league, the incentive for teams to protect their investments grows alongside the risk of losing a player to a preventable injury. And since most of the guys now playing in the NHL have worn some form of face protection or other since they were kids up through the junior and college hockey ranks, making visors mandatory won't be seen as that strange. As for Yzerman, now GM of the Tampa Bay Lighting, his perspective still hasn't changed almost a full 10 years later.

"It took me 20-something years to figure out I probably should wear a visor ... from a management point of view, they make sense," Yzerman told the *Tampa Bay Times*. So, in the words of Ron MacLean: "All those in favour of visors, say 'aye!"



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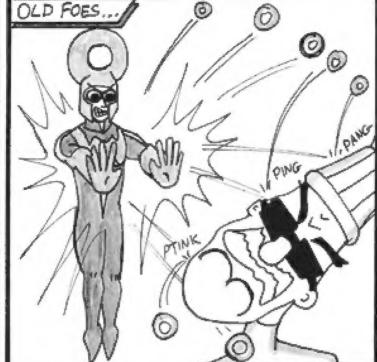
#### I AM NOT A LUNGFISH by Jessica Pigeau

Serial Killers, Child molesters,

and the kind of unrepentant scum who would put the knife in the jam without westing off the peanut butter.

#### **METALEETO** by Ross Vincent





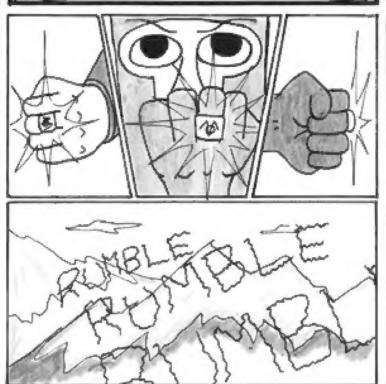










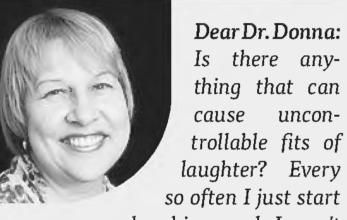






## askpr. Donna

WRITTEN BY Dr. Donna Cave



laughing and I can't stop. Even when it hurts my body just continues laughing.

Dear Side-Splitting: What a refreshing change from the uncontrollable fits of crying coming from University Hall since the provincial budget was announced. It must be a bit disconcerting, though, when it happens during an exam and the rest of the class wonders if you've finally come unglued. Did you know that you can literally die laughing? "Fatal Hilarity" has been reported since the time of Ancient Greece.

Fortunately for you, death is quite rare. Laughter can be benign or it can be pathological, as anyone who has been "tickle tortured" will know. You may just have a version of Tourette's Syndrome where other folks get sudden, repetitive twitches, or random but involuntary outbursts of obscenities. Pathologic laughter has been associated with chemical exposures: you will already be familiar with the classic dental "laughing gas," but insecticides can do this too, so if you spend lonely nights sniffing Raid, I might advise you stop. It can also happen after smacking your head when overestimating your ability on the halfpipe. If you are a mature student, it may be a reflection of your Alzheimer's disease. If you practice cannibalism, you may have picked up a prion and developed Kuru, which is known as "laughing sickness."

However, I am going to suggest that you see a physician, as pathological laughter can be associated with a host of other serious neurologic diseases. Your doc will need to rule out multiple sclerosis (MS), Lyme disease, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS or Lou Gehrig's disease), epilepsy, brain tumours and stroke. There are rare copper metabolism problems that can cause pathologic laughter. Even syphilis can do this, so one more reason to use a condom! Clip this article and take it to your doc so they have a fighting chance of figuring out where to start. Treatment revolves around recognizing the cause. There are medications that are effective for many of these conditions, although Kuru is currently fatal. A mix of dextromethorphan (the ingredient in many cough medicines) and quinidine (used for heart arrhythmias and treatment of malaria) has been proven to be significantly helpful in those whose laughing is associated with ALS or MS. No,

don't just start taking cough syrup and see if it helps.

Dear Dr.Donna: I hear that it's good take Vitamin D in the winter. Specifically, the internet says that if you're feeling the winter blues, you should take an extra large dose. Can you please give more details?

Dear Deceived: Vitamin D is manufactured in our skin from sunlight, so it seems logical that seasonal affective disorders might be related to Vitamin D deficiency. Unfortunately, to date, the only diseases Vitamin D can be proven to prevent are bone-related, although there is some MS data that is encouraging. Most folks living in Canada are deficient. We should all take 600 I.U daily as supplements, but the max is 4,000 I.U.

Health and Wellness questions? E-mail me at askdrdonna@gate-way.ualberta.ca or click the link to Ask Dr Donna at thegatewayon-line.ca!

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